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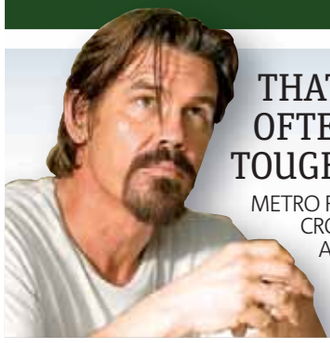

THAT'S HIM! OFTEN MR. TOUGH GUY

METRO FILM CRITIC RICHARD CROUSE TAKES A LOOK AT THE ROLES THAT MAKE ACTOR JOSH BROLIN TICK

PAGE 17

You say tax, I say investment in the future

Premier Wynne fights back against the federal government's opposition to a new pension plan PAGE 3

Call it Israeli prison: The college years

Palestinian inmates secretly earn university degrees while serving time PAGE 13

Argos: Coming soon to BMO field?

MLSE CEO hints bringing the CFL team to the city-owned venue could have NFL implications PAGE 28

Cop harassed ex while on duty

Guilty plea. Constable faced charges under Police Act after sending 'annoying' Facebook messages to former boyfriend and his family

A police constable who harassed her ex-boyfriend and his wife for a year through Facebook and used police databases while on and off duty may lose about seven weeks pay after pleading guilty Tuesday to three Police Services Act charges.

Const. Dionne Kent faced two charges of insubordination and one for discreditable conduct, for offences that took place between December 2011 and December 2012.

At a police tribunal hearing at the Toronto police College Street headquarters, Kent dabbed at her red eyes with tissues before standing in her police uniform to enter a plea of guilty on all charges.

Dionne Kent
LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"I'm sorry for what I did," said Kent, who has served with Toronto police since 1999 and is currently on uniformed patrol in North York's 33 Division.

Her lawyer, Maureen Salama, and the police prosecutor, Insp. Sonia Thomas, recommended jointly that Kent face eight days, 18 days and 12 days consecutively without pay for the three charges.

According to information detailed by Salama and an agreed statement of facts, Kent had been in an 11-year relationship with Brian Fleischman that ended in 2007. After briefly reconciling in 2011, she learned he was engaged to a woman who is now his wife, Brenda Fleischman.

After Brenda Fleischman complained to police, Kent's superiors learned the officer had been using her own Facebook account and several aliases to send "harassing" and "annoying" messages to Brenda, her friends and family.

One message was sent to Brenda's daughter, who suffers from schizophrenia, warning her not to "trust" her new stepfather.

Even though there were never threats of harm, Brenda said she was afraid for her safety — "That someone with a gun was acting so irrationally," she said.

Police Services Act charges are not criminal offences. Kent's sentence will be delivered March 26.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'GIVE AMERICA A RAISE'

U.S. President Barack Obama delivers the state of the union address in Washington, D.C., Tuesday. Seeking to energize his sluggish second term, Obama vowed to sidestep Congress "whenever" necessary to narrow disparities between rich and poor, including raising the minimum wage. **See story, page 14.** ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

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Anthony Smith case

Hanad Mohamed
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Charges stayed in shooting death

Charges have been stayed against a man who had been accused in the death of Anthony Smith.

Smith, 21, was shot and killed outside a Toronto nightclub last March, but his death gained extra notoriety when a photo surfaced of him with Mayor Rob Ford and two alleged gang members.

Hanad Mohamed was originally charged with first-degree murder in Smith's death, but those charges were later downgraded to accessory after the fact to manslaughter, accessory to committing aggravated assault and accessory to discharging a firearm.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mississauga

Couple charged over deaths

A woman and her common-law husband were arrested Tuesday in Nova Scotia and charged with killing her ex-husband and his mother, who died three years apart in Ontario, police said.

Caleb Harrison, 41, was found dead last August in a home in Mississauga — the same home where his mother Bridget Harrison, 63, died in 2010.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New pension plan 'not a tax': Wynne

'Investment'. Premier calls scheme to be unveiled in spring budget a mandatory savings program

Premier Kathleen Wynne stresses a new Ontario pension plan to be unveiled in the spring budget is "not a tax," but mandatory savings for retirement.

Fighting back against what she deemed "attacks coming at us" from the federal Conservative government, which opposes the scheme, Wynne said Ontarians need more for their golden years.

"This is not money that goes into the provincial treasury," the premier told reporters Tuesday as she unveiled a new technical advisory group to help design the pension plan.

"Taxation implies that this is somehow money that goes into the provincial treasury to be spent by government. It's money that goes into plans, money that's then invested in the economy and then creates a return for people in the future," she said.

"This is not a tax. This is about an investment in the future. It is money that will go into a plan that will allow people to retire more securely."

Keith Ambachtsheer, director of the Rotman International Centre for Pension Management and a member of Wynne's advisory group, said the plan would not be administered by Queen's Park.

"It's not the government that's going to do it. It's going to be an arms-length organization that's going to do it. That's the way you need to think about it," said Ambachtsheer.

"Canada has created the best pension institutions in the world and many of those were created right here in this province and in this city, so the idea that we don't know how to do this is just silly," he said.

Others helping to design the plan are: Royal Bank of Canada corporate director David Denison; CARP (formerly known as the Canadian Association of Retired Persons) vice-president Susan Eng; Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan vice-president Melissa Kennedy; Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan president and CEO Jim Keohane; and Morneau Shepell executive chair Bill Morneau.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"Canada has created the best pension institutions in the world ... the idea that we don't know how to do this is just silly."

Keith Ambachtsheer, Rotman International Centre for Pension Management

Keeping mental health in check

Student Jordy Mills, and his feet, take part in a yoga class offered at Rosedale Heights School of the Arts on Tuesday, where director of education Donna Quan announced the launch of a city-wide, four-year strategy to integrate mental health into every aspect of the student experience. All 39,000 staff of the board —from principals to lunchroom supervisors and caretakers — will be trained in the basics of mental health by the end of June, Quan said, and training will be ongoing.

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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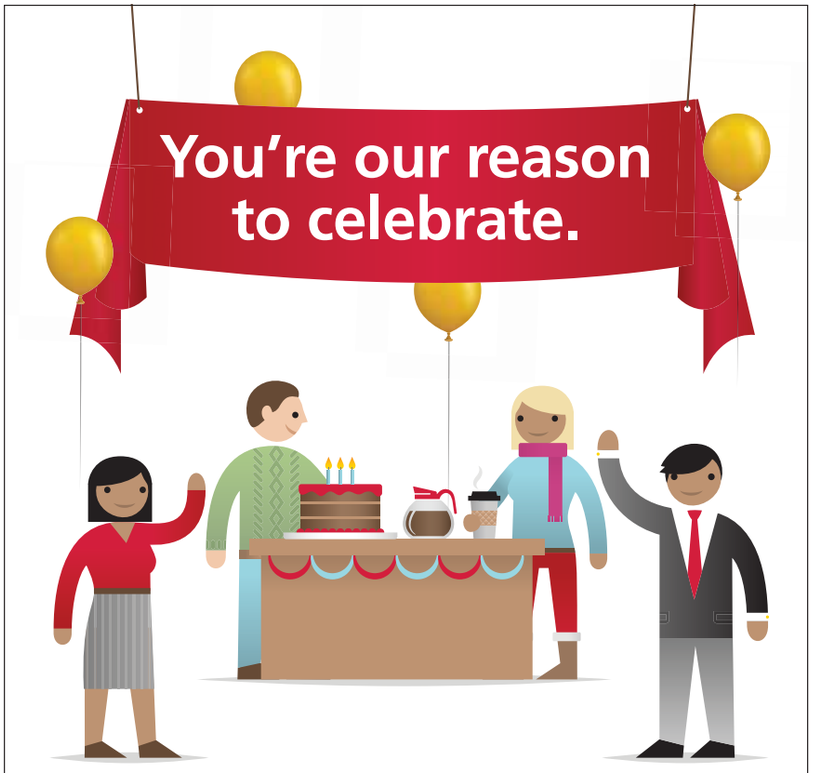

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TTC study of timed transfers gets green light

TTC board. New system could result in up to $20M in lost revenue per year

TTC staff are preparing a business case for time-based transfers that would allow riders to get on and off the system for a specified period of time — likely two hours or 90 minutes — and re-board without paying another fare.

The TTC board approved a study of the issue, expected to take a few months, on Tuesday.

"It's not for the 10 per cent (of riders) who use transfers. It's for everybody who uses a Metropass or a token who wants to continue their trip, because once we move to (the electronic fare card) Presto, we need a way to continue that journey," said Coun. Karen Stintz, who ended her term as TTC chair at Tuesday's TTC board meeting.

Stintz, who is stepping aside to focus on running for mayor, said the board has only approved a study of time-based transfers. Whether it is possible, given that the new system could cost up to $20 million a year in lost fare revenue, will be decided in the future.

"We are not proposing we take a $20-million hit. We would require additional (government) subsidy and we would be making a pitch for that," said TTC CEO Andy Byford.

TTC officials also offered assurances Tuesday that city councillors and the public will be consulted on a proposal to move and eliminate some bus and streetcar stops.

A report on new guidelines for stop spacing and locations at pedestrian crossings was deferred until February, after Coun. Pam McConnell said she had some concerns about certain stops slated for elimination.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lost dollars

TTC officials estimate that about $15 million a year is lost to misuse of the current system, a decades-old transfer policy that allows riders to transfer to different transit vehicles in a continuous, single-direction trip.

Breaking the mould at Front and Spadina

A rendering of "The Well," a new development that would transform Front and Spadina into an open-air shopping centre and fulfil a century-old vision to link green space along Wellington at that intersection. Coun. Adam Vaughan said developers have already been in conversation with local residents about the project. "It's a project that breaks the mould of your typical downtown development project," he said. COURTESY HARRY PONTARINI ARCHITECTS

Scarborough transit

Councillor wants subway plan stopped in its tracks

A councillor wants his colleagues to hit the brakes on the Scarborough subway plan as Toronto council meets to finalize the budget for 2014.

A motion by Josh Matlow on Wednesday will ask council to delay the proposed $14.5-million allocation for the Bloor-Danforth extension and cancel the 0.5 per cent property-tax increase that will serve as a down-payment.

For Matlow, it's the first step in killing the project, which he calls "fiscally irresponsible."

But Matlow's motion faces a tough fight.

Mayor Rob Ford is staking his political fortunes on "subways, subways subways," and Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly, another Scarborough councillor and subway backer, said Tuesday he will urge councillors to support the subway levy.

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Cambridge Centre

COBOURG
Northumberland Mall

CONCORD
Vaughan Mills

GUELPH
Stone Road Mall

HAMILTON
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Jackson Square Mall
Lime Ridge Mall

KITCHENER
Fairview Park Mall

LONDON
Masonville Place
Westmount Mall
White Oaks Mall

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8339 Kennedy Rd, South Unionville SQ
Albion Mall
Markville Shopping Centre
Pacific Mall, Unit E28, C3

MIDLAND
Hugel Avenue

MILTON
Milton Mall

MISSISSAUGA
60 Bristol Road East
Dixie Outlet Mall
Erin Mills Town Centre
Sheridan Centre
South Common
Square One Shopping Centre
Westwood Mall

NEWMARKET
Upper Canada Mall

NORTH YORK
Centerpoint Mall
Fairview Mall
Yorkdale Shopping Centre

OAKVILLE
Oakville Place
South Oakville Centre

OSHAWA
Five Points Mall
Oshawa Centre

PICKERING
Pickering Town Centre

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2400 Eglinton Avenue
1911 Finch Avenue West, Unit K11
61 Hanna Avenue
333 King Street East
944 Kingston Road
1712A Queen Street East
290 Queen Street West
1448 Queen Street West
222 Spadina Avenue, Unit 3A
363 Yonge Street
2300 Yonge Street, Unit S22, concourse level
2674 Yonge Street
4841 Yonge Street
5150 Yonge Street, Unit G3
6064 Yonge Street
Agincourt Mall
Cedarbrae Mall
College Park
Dufferin Mall
East York Town Centre
Eglinton Square Shopping Centre
First Canadian Place
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Lawrence Square
Liberty Village Cellworks
Liberty Village Intown
Oriental Centre Mall
Parkway Mall
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Runway construction issues irk TC

Island airport. Transport Canada thinks extension could disrupt service

Transport Canada says its biggest issue with a proposed runway extension at Toronto's island airport would be how construction would take place.

"Our main concern is during that process how an airport would continue to operate while construction was being undertaken ... whether it's Billy Bishop or any other airport," said Michael Stephenson, regional director-general of Transport Canada, during a public meeting on Monday.

Given that Billy Bishop is a single-runway airport, construction would be more challenging, possibly forcing a closure or special planning measures, he said.

"We wouldn't necessarily approve the design," he said, noting airports are responsible for that work, whether it's an additional taxiway or runway extension.

"We have an inspection protocol. We would look at what they are doing, and we would measure them against the standards that exist in legislation," Stephenson said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Up in the air

City staff continues to take the position that there are too many unknowns, so politicians should defer any decision until 2015. It's unclear whether council will heed that advice, given both Mayor Ford and Deputy Mayor Kelly are supporters of Porter expansion plans.

Jumbo nose blows minds

Ontario Science Centre host Anil Liyanage demonstrates "Oscar's Sneeze Machine" to a student from Crescent Town Elementary School on Tuesday. Children can pull a lever to irritate a big nose that sneezes on them. The exhibit is part of Sesame Street Presents: The Body, an interactive exhibition about the human body, on now until May 5. CONTRIBUTED

Supermarket? Super lame. Loblaws by Kensington elicits mixed response

Martin Zimmerman says that when a Loblaws opened at Queen St. W. and Portland St. two years ago, business at his Freshmart in Kensington Market dropped 25 per cent overnight.

So of course he is concerned that Loblaw Companies Ltd. will be opening another store much closer — on College west of Spadina, on the second floor of a 15-storey condo development.

"Kensington Market is all about personality. People come because they feel welcome, they feel part of the community," said Zimmerman.

He is concerned that a Loblaws could run family-owned grocers out of business, and Kensington Market could become the next Entertainment District, with bars and restaurants setting up shop where food retailers have operated for generations.

Grocery wars

"I am not worried about it. Their prices are always so much higher than mine."

Arja Chopra of Sugar and Spice

The Loblaws store is going in despite complaints from residents and a petition by Friends of Kensington Market that has more than 7,000 signatures.

"There will be some benefits," said Wanda's Pie in the Sky owner David Beaver, pointing out that there are some businesses that need competition to improve their game.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Fire Services

Effects of cuts on fire risks debated

With budget cuts looming, the union representing firefighters in Toronto has launched a fierce campaign opposing trims they say will have a "drastic effect on public safety."

But according to the underwriters whose risk assessments set insurance rates, the proposal to cut four trucks and 84 firefighters would not, on balance, make the city's houses, condo towers and office buildings more susceptible to fire damage.

In fact, Michael Currie, regional director for the Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS), said the cuts that will be debated at city hall this week are part of a basket of "strategic improvements" that would improve Toronto's rating.

"Although they are realigning and in some places reducing suppression capacity, in some areas they are improving their capacity," Currie said. "Overall, we actually see reduction in risk level and improving suppression levels."

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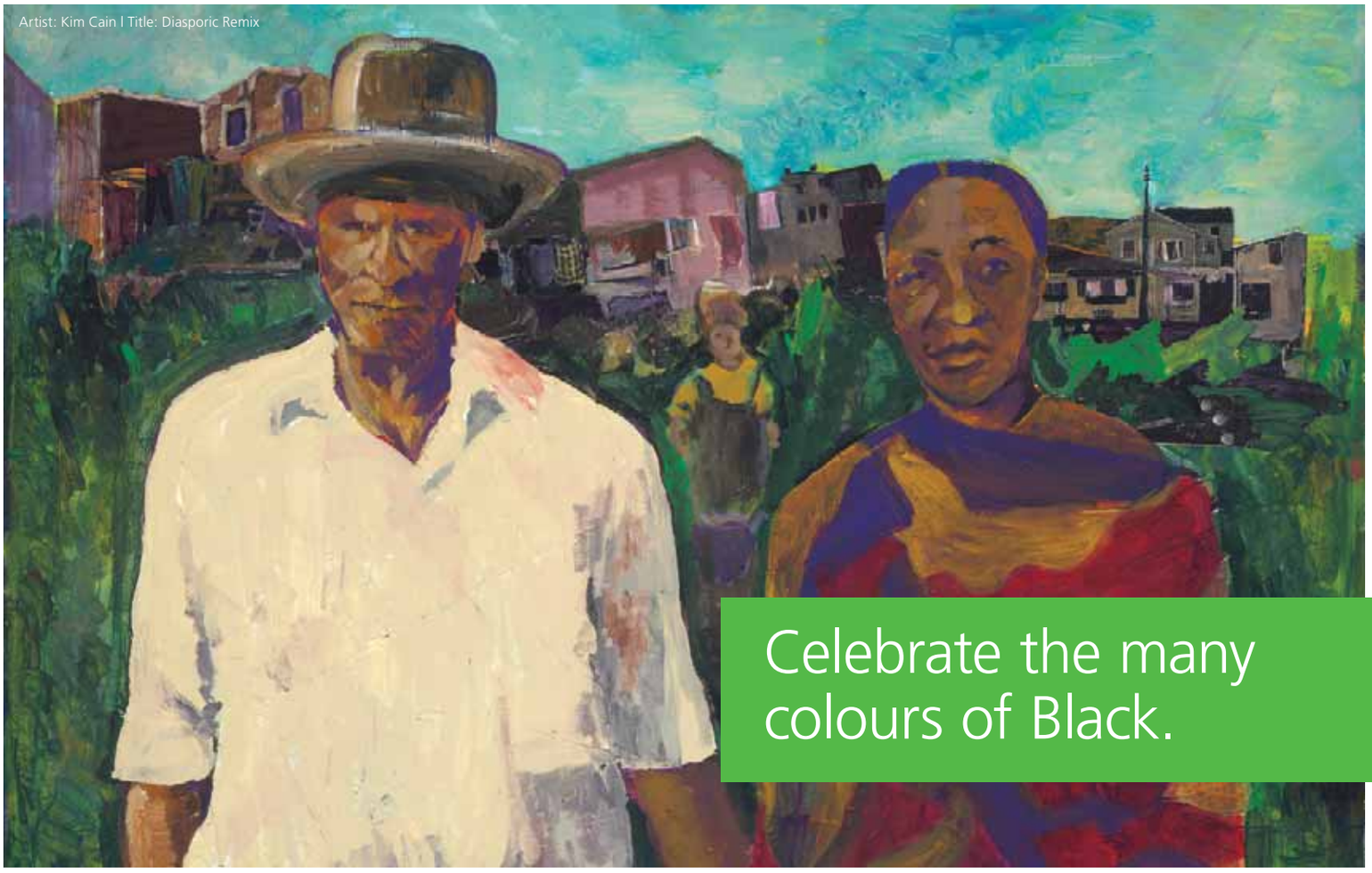

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Ukraine PM resigns, parliament overturns harsh anti-protest laws

PM-less. Yanukovych offered the position to opposition leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk, but he refused the post

In back-to-back moves aimed at defusing Ukraine's political crisis, the prime minister resigned Tuesday and parliament repealed anti-protest laws that had set off violent clashes between protesters and police.

The two developments were significant concessions to the anti-government protesters who have fought sporadically with police for the last 10 days after two months of peaceful around-the-clock demonstrations. The protests erupted after President Viktor Yanukovych decided to turn toward Russia for a bailout loan instead of signing a deal with the European Union, but have since morphed into a general plea for more human rights, less corruption and more democracy in this nation of 45 million.

Quoted

"We have repealed all the laws against which the whole country rose up."

Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Ukrainian lawmaker and a key figure in the opposition

The departure of Prime Minister Mykola Azarov removes one of the officials most disliked by the opposition forces whose protests have turned parts of Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, into a barricaded maze.

However, Azarov's spokesman told the Interfax news agency that deputy Prime Minister Serhiy Arbuzov will assume temporary leadership of the Cabinet in the meantime. Such a move is unlikely to please the opposition, as Arbuzov is widely viewed as just another staunch ally of Yanukovych.

Other key issues remain unresolved in Ukraine's political crisis, including the opposition's repeated demands for Yanukovych to resign and for a new election to be held.

Azarov's resignation came just before the opening of a special parliament session that repealed anti-protest laws that had set off violent clashes between protesters and police.

Yanukovych earlier this month had pushed through new laws to crack down on protests and raise prison sentences for creating disorder. The laws also prohibited people from wearing helmets and gas masks, which many have done for fear that riot police would try to violently disperse protests. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Riot police warm themselves by a bonfire near the Ukrainian parliament in Kyiv on Tuesday.

SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unwelcome

Canada's reaction

Senior Ukrainian officials will be barred from Canada as a response to the continuing crackdown on protests in that country, Immigration Minister Chris Alexander said Tuesday. "We will restrict entry to Canada for key Ukrainian government officials that have been responsible for the repression and silencing of opposition voices," he said. Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said it's a symbolic effort, but sends a disapproving message to the government in Ukraine.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Philippines. Police accused of playing 'wheel of torture' game

Philippine police officers played a "wheel of torture" game to have fun and punish criminal suspects during interrogations, including bouts of punching named after boxing star Manny Pacquiao, human rights officials and activists said Tuesday.

Under the game, detainees — mostly suspected drug traffickers — were punched if the "torture wheel" stopped at "20 seconds Manny Pacman," Pacquiao's nickname, or hung upside down if it stopped at a punishment called "30-second bat," Amnesty International said. The London-based rights group called the practice despicable.

A picture of the multicoloured wheel provided by the Commission on Human Rights showed several other tortures, including "3 minutes zombies" and "30-second duck walk/ferris wheel" but it was not immediately clear how those punishments were carried out.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this photo taken on Jan. 9, and released by the Commission on Human Rights in Manila Tuesday, a "wheel of torture" is placed on a post at an undisclosed police safe house. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Preventative measures. UN deploys EU troops to Central African Republic

The UN Security Council on Tuesday unanimously authorized the deployment of a European Union force to the Central African Republic to bolster French and African troops who are trying to quell sectarian violence that the United Nations has warned could escalate into genocide.

The council also approved financial sanctions against individuals who have committed human rights abuses, threaten peace and a political transition process and violate an arms embargo imposed earlier on the country.

French Ambassador Gérard Araud said the EU troops will be deployed to guard the airport in the capital, Bangui, where 100,000 people have taken refuge, mostly living on the tarmac. Araud said that will free up French troops to move beyond the airport and take up security operations in Bangui and beyond.

The EU mission likely will comprise of 500 to 600 troops. Thomas Mayr-Harting, the head of the EU delegation to the United Nations, said the EU forces would be on the ground within weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The struggle

More than 1,000 people have been killed and nearly 1 million forced from their homes since December in violence between Christians and Muslims, militias and civilians.

- The mostly Muslim rebels, known as Seleka, came from the country's far north in March 2013 to overthrow the president.
- The situation has stabilized somewhat since rebel-turned-president Michel Djotodia surrendered power.
- A new interim civilian government has pledged to halt the violence.

National emergency

Floods ravage Bolivia

Bolivia's government has declared a national emergency to deal with flooding that has claimed at least 30 lives and forced some 21,000 families from their homes over the past two months. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caged

Morsi defiant at start of trial

Egypt's toppled president Mohammed Morsi stood alone in a soundproof glass-encased metal cage at the start of a new trial Tuesday wearing a white prison uniform, pacing and shouting at the judge: "Who are you? Tell me!" Morsi is on trial with 130 others, including Muslim Brotherhood leaders, and militants from Hamas and Hezbollah, over charges related to the prison breaks at the height of the 18-day 2011 uprising against his predecessor Hosni Mubarak.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amid protests

Thailand to hold elections

Thailand's government announced Tuesday it will go ahead with an election this weekend despite an opposition boycott, months of street protests and the likelihood of more violence in the country's political crisis. The government made the announcement after Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra met with the Election Commission, which had sought a delay in the polls.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigeria

Kawuri villagers injured in attack

With gunfire exploding all around, Rabi Mallam raced into her hut with her son and granddaughter. But then the suspected Islamic extremists set the home ablaze, and Mallam was severely burned before escaping. By Tuesday, 85 bodies had been found.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Four former Quebec provincial police face fraud, theft charges

The former head of the Quebec provincial police force and three former senior officers have been ordered to appear in court next month on charges of fraud, theft and breach of trust.

Charges filed in Montreal on Tuesday name Richard Deschênes, the force's former director-general, former assistant director Steven Chabot, Alfred Tremblay, a former assistant director of investigations, and Jean Audette, another ex-assistant director in charge of investigations.

All four have been summoned to appear in court on Feb. 13. The date for the appearance was noted in the charges.

The group is charged with fraud and breach of trust in the performance of their duties and stealing more than $5,000 from the Quebec government and the provincial police force.

The charges say the acts allegedly committed by Deschênes, Chabot and Tremblay were committed on or around March 17, 2010, while those allegedly committed by Audette happened between Oct. 27, 2011, and Oct. 15, 2012.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Muslim group demands apology

National Council of Canadian Muslims executive director Ihsaan Gardee speaks at a press and his chief spokesman for a comment it says linked the organization to a terrorist group.

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Canada ready with U.S. over

Labelling. Agriculture minister makes last-ditch attempt to make American lawmakers change rules, says he'll return case to WTO

Canada's agriculture minister says he's hoping to avoid an all-out trade war with the U.S over food labelling. But Gerry Ritz warns that, if there is a war, he's prepared to fight it.

Ritz has launched a last-minute appeal to American lawmakers to change U.S. food labelling rules through a farm bill that could come to a first vote as early as Wednesday.

"I'm hoping that cooler minds will prevail, that the pressure that the American industry is bringing to bear in the next day or two will cause some legislators to step back," said Ritz.

Canada has long complained that the so-called Country of Origin Labelling provisions adopted by the U.S. government in 2008 hurt meat industries on both sides of the border.

Hopes for a settlement of the dispute were dashed Monday when U.S. lawmakers reached a deal that did not include changes to the labelling requirements.

Failing any last-minute amendments, Ritz says Canada will return the dispute to the World Trade Organization, with arguments in the case expected to begin Feb. 18.

"That's a good thing," said Ritz. "It starts to move it ahead."

If the WTO rules in Canada's favour, tariffs could be imposed by early 2015 on U.S. exports of everything from beef and pork products to grains and fresh fruits.

But that should only be used as a "last resort" measure because tariffs would

from Harper over comment

conference in Ottawa on Tuesday. NCCM is demanding an apology from Stephen Harper
SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

for food fight labelling rules

In the meantime

Ritz says Canada will support industry stakeholders in the U.S. and Mexico in a bid to obtain a court injunction preventing the U.S. government from implementing the bill.

- The Canadian Cattlemen's Association said it too would support taking the fight to the WTO.
- Country-of-origin labelling rules are blamed for complicating the import of meat and livestock into the U.S., driving up the cost of business, and causing an estimated $1 billion a year in losses.

be costly both to businesses and consumers, warned Lyle Stewart, Saskatchewan's agriculture minister.

"It's not the ideal situation, but it's about the only weapon if everything else fails," Stewart said at the provincial legislature.

However, Stewart said he would support retaliation, if necessary.

"If negotiations fail, if a WTO ruling fails to change the Americans mind on this again, it's about the only tool we have left. And so it will make some products more expensive in Canada, that's for sure."

Some American companies have said they can't afford to sort, label and store meat from Canada differently than meat from domestic animals. In October, Tyson Foods Inc., one of the largest buyers of Canadian cattle in the U.S., said it would stop buying from feedlots north of the border because of the higher cost of complying with the regulations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

L'Isle-Verte

Death toll raised in seniors' home fire

Quebec provincial police said Tuesday that 17 are confirmed dead and 15 remain missing after the blaze that ravaged Résidence du Havre in L'Isle-Verte last Thursday.

"We will keep going until all 32 people have been found," said Lt. Michel Brunet. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Veterans Affairs

Ex-soldiers protest office closures

A group of ex-soldiers was rebuffed Tuesday by Stephen Harper, who played down the impact of impending Veterans Affairs regional office closures.

Veteran Roy Lamore, whose service dates back to the 1940s, said the closures "will put veterans at risk."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Eavesdropping agency

Official calls for more transparency

The federal privacy watchdog says the government's electronic eavesdropping agency should tell Canadians more. Communications Security Establishment Canada should table an annual public report, says interim privacy commissioner Chantal Bernier.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pipeline blast

The heat's back on for Manitobans

Natural gas was back again Tuesday in Manitoba communities left without heat following a pipeline explosion.

TransCanada said service was restored to most communities overnight Monday and gas began flowing to the rest by Tuesday afternoon. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Court finds Ireland failed to protect schoolgirl from abuse

European Court of Human Rights. Rules sexual abuse at hands of teacher could have been prevented by an effective government

Europe's top human rights court ruled Tuesday that Ireland's government failed in its duty to protect children in the case of a woman sexually abused by a lay teacher at a state-backed Roman Catholic school four decades ago.

The European Court of Human Rights' grand chamber ruled by 11 votes to six that Louise O'Keeffe's rights to be spared "inhuman and degrading treatment" and to an effective remedy were violated.

The Strasbourg, France-based court ordered the Irish government to pay O'Keeffe 30,000 euros ($40,950) in damages and 85,000 euros ($116,000) in costs — a result that could pave the way for claims against the Irish government by hundreds of people who were abused in schools.

"It's not a win for me. It's a win for the children of Ireland," she told reporters at a news conference in Ireland. O'Keeffe, 48, said she was abused by her teacher during lessons in his classroom when she was 9 years old. She argued that the Irish state failed to put in place appropriate measures to stop "systematic abuse" at the Dunderrow National School in 1973.

O'Keeffe — who has already received damages from the offender — brought the case to the European court after the Irish Supreme Court ruled that the government was not legally liable for her abuse.

No complaints were made to a state authority about O'Keeffe's former teacher, Leo Hickey until 1995, after he retired. In 1998, Hickey pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Court ruling

The European court found that Ireland's system of detecting and reporting abuse was ineffective in the 1970s, allowing more than 400 incidents of abuse by Louise O'Keeffe's former principal and teacher, Leo Hickey, from the mid-1960s

- In its ruling, the court said if adequate action had been taken when the first complaints about him surfaced, O'Keeffe might not have been abused.

Portrait of the artist as a 7,000-year-old man

In this undated photo provided by the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), a drawing depicts what a hunter-gatherer who lived in Europe some 7,000 years ago and had blue eyes and dark skin — a combination that has largely disappeared from the continent in the millennia since — might have looked like, according to scientists. The discovery, published in the journal Nature this week, was made by scientists from the United States, Europe and Australia who analyzed ancient DNA extracted from a male tooth found in a cave in northern Spain. CSIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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- February 18, 2014 6:30 p.m. Online Webinar

The next enrolment date is March 4, 2014.

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We see more than numbers.

Jailed Palestinians secretly earn degrees in Israeli prisons

Uprising leader. Marwan Barghouti earned doctorate from an Egyptian university in 2010 while serving five life terms

Jamal Abu Muhsin was a first-year Palestinian university student when he was convicted of stabbing a 76-year-old Israeli man to death in 1991, in retaliation for the killings of five Palestinian stone-throwers by Israeli soldiers.

Recently released from prison, he's now beginning a new chapter of his life thanks to a pair of university degrees — all earned behind bars.

Abu Muhsin is among hundreds of Palestinians who have spent their time in Israeli prison pursuing higher education — a program that was supported by the Israeli prison system for two decades until it was cut in 2011 as part of a series of sanctions against prisoners. Since then, prisoners have secretly organized their own courses, with backing from universities in the West Bank and Gaza, Palestinian officials say.

University degree

"When I found myself in jail for life, I was faced with two options: either I make meaning for my life or waste my life and my mind behind bars."

Jamal Abu Muhsin, 42, a Palestinian who secretly completed a university degree while serving time in Israeli prison

Uprising leader Marwan Barghouti, the most famous Palestinian prisoner, teaches a master's degree course in Israel Studies. Abu Muhsin was one of Barghouti's students.

Abu Muhsin said studying helped him get through 23 years behind bars. He chose to study history, then languages and writing and finally sciences and economics before earning a bachelor's degree in political science via long-distance learning at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He later added a master's degree from the Palestinian Al-Quds University.

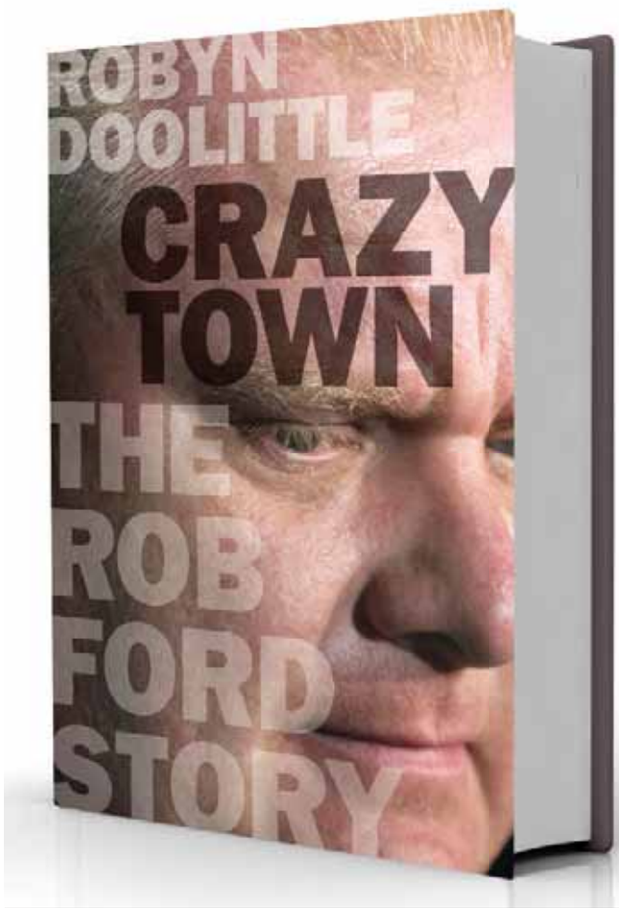
"I've studied materials about the Zionist movement from a Zionist perspective, but I found no discrimination against us as students. I would write papers to the university in which I would criticize the Zionist theory and they would accept my argument," he said. "I wanted to understand everything in life and to make my long life in jail meaningful. Otherwise my soul would have died."

Since Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem in 1967, tens of thousands of Palestinians have been imprisoned for anti-Israeli actions, from stone-throwing to killings. Hundreds of the roughly 5,000 prisoners held by Israel today are believed to be pursuing degrees, according to prisoners' rights activist.

Abu Muhsin is among 104 of the longest-serving prisoners Israel is freeing under a U.S.-brokered package that relaunched peace talks last July.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Recently released inmate Jamal Abu Muhsin shows his university degree, in the West Bank town of Tubas near Jenin, that he earned at an Israeli prison. He is among hundreds of Palestinians who spent their time in Israeli prisons pursuing an education. NASSER ISHTAYEH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



THE CAN'T-MISS EVENT OF THE YEAR

ROBYN DOOLITTLE
Toronto Star reporter and one of three journalists to view the infamous video

IN CONVERSATION WITH

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RamsayTalks

Obama focuses on economic security

State of the Union address. President flexes his power with executive actions

Vowing to act "whenever and wherever" he can, U.S. President Barack Obama unveiled an array of executive actions in his State of the Union address Tuesday night aimed at bolstering economic security for millions of Americans.

His directives, mostly modest in scope, include increasing wages for some new workers on government contracts, making it easier for lower-income people to save for retirement and providing new incentives to use natural gas.

In a sign of his troubled relationship with the divided Congress, Obama's separate proposals for action by lawmakers were slim and largely focused on old ideas that have gained little traction over the past year. He pressed Congress to revive a stalled immigration overhaul and pass an across-the-board increase in the federal minimum wage. His one new legislation proposal calls for expanding an income tax credit for workers without children.

He touched only briefly on foreign policy, touting the drawdown of American troops from Afghanistan this year and reiterating his threat to veto any new sanctions Congress levies on Iran while nuclear negotiations with the Islamic republic are underway. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Duck Dynasty's Willie Robertson talks with Rep. Paul Ryan before President Barack Obama's State of the Union address in Washington, Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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18747

U.S. Air Force. Over 60 officers may have cheated on missile tests

The number of U.S. Air Force service members implicated in a scandal involving alleged cheating on tests of nuclear missile launch operations has roughly doubled from the 34 initially cited, officials said Tuesday.

The tests in question are designed to ensure proficiency by launch officers in handling "emergency war orders," which involve the classified processing of orders received through their chain of command to launch a missile.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the additional 30-plus airmen suspected of being involved in cheating on proficiency tests are alleged to have participated in the cheating directly or were involved indirectly. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This photo shows a mockup of a nuclear missile used for training by missile maintenance crews at F. E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tennessee

Nun and activists ordered to pay back damages to nuclear weapons plant

A judge has ordered a nun and two other Catholic peace activists to pay full restitution of nearly $53,000 for damaging the primary U.S. storehouse for bomb-grade uranium.

The three were convicted of sabotage last year after they broke into the nuclear weapons plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee and cut through fences, splattered blood and hammered on the wall of the plant. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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OK Glass, order a pair of bold frames in shale

The new Google Glass "Bold" prescription frames in shale colour are modeled at the Google Glass Basecamp space in New York on Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blind as a bat? Google Glass has you covered, offering four frame styles of the wearable, Web-connected gadget

Google Glass is getting glasses.

The computerized, Internet-connected goggles don't actually come with lenses in their frame. Starting Tuesday, Google is offering an optional attachment for prescription lenses and new styles of detachable sunglasses.

The move comes as Google Inc. prepares to make Glass available to the general population later this year. Currently, Glass is available only to the tens of thousands of people who are testing and creating apps for it.

Eye-popping prices

$1,500+

The frames cost $225 US and the shades, $150 US. That's on top of the $1,500 US price of Glass ... oh, plus the price of lenses.

Glass is basically a small computer, with a camera and a display screen above the wearer's right eye. The device sits roughly at eyebrow level, higher than where eyeglasses would go.

The gadget itself is not changing with this announcement. Rather, Google is now offering four styles of frames for prescription lenses. It's also offering two new types of shades, in addition to the one previously available. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not a slave to trends

BlackBerry jumps on FM radio ... 68 years after the CBC

BlackBerry has launched a new feature that it can boast even the latest iPhones don't have: FM radio.

The rollout of the newest version of the BlackBerry 10 operating system, which the Waterloo-based company says includes hundreds of enhancements and new features, started Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 89.64¢ (-0.35¢)

TSX 13,687.66 (+105.37)

OIL $97.41 US (+$1.69)

GOLD $1,250.80 US (-$12.60)

Natural gas: $5.00 US (+0.10)
Dow Jones: 15,928.56 (+90.68)

My (mannequin) body's too bootylicious for ya, babe

The one-size-fits-all mannequin is getting a much-needed makeover. Stores are using more realistic versions of the usually tall, svelte, faceless mannequins in windows and aisles. David's Bridal mannequins soon will get thicker waists, saggier breasts and back fat to mimic a more realistic shape. America's largest bridal chain started changing its fit mannequins used to create gowns to reflect the average body. BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PEACE SYMBOL NEEDS BOLSTERING

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

The signs are everywhere.

For example, on Sunday, Pope Francis released two white doves of peace from his window at the Vatican, assisted by two extremely cute children.

It was a gesture of hope that the bloody protests in the Ukraine could be resolved.

Seconds after the doves were released, they were attacked by a big nasty crow and an even bigger, nastier seagull.

Well, you don't have to be Robert Langdon — Dan Brown's professor of religious symbology from Angels and Demons — to get the idea on that one, especially as the world's media gleefully featured a photo of the forces of darkness (crow) locked in a death struggle with faith and hope (snow white dove).

The dove got the worst of it.

It's a little harder to interpret the attack by the seagull, which is not known for its poetics.

"Big hungry bird breaks for lunch," perhaps.

Signs aside, there's a perfectly logical scientific explanation for the attack of the angry birds, according to National Geographic. White doves stand out in a crowd of otherwise grey pigeons; they can't hide, and predators single them out for attack.

Which is why those albino wildlife don't last long in nature, another potentially rich vein of overwrought symbology.

Meanwhile, the white dove, a pristine symbol of faith and hope, is just a pigeon of a different colour. It's just as feisty when it comes to fighting for that last scrap and it's known to eats bugs.

Hardly holy.

This is not the first time the Doves of the Vatican have been repelled. The doves of the previous pontiff, pope Benedict, were attacked by a seagull last year, and then turned around and tried to fly back into the window, crying "Sanctuary!" in dovish.

Maybe the popes should audition a slightly more robust avian symbol of peace and love. Like the bald eagle, a symbol of America's tough love for generations of banana republicans.

After all, St. Michael the Archangel has a sword for exactly this kind of thing. Some demon, who thinks he's a soft touch with all the long hair and gossamer wings, tries to knock him over — and bam!

Out comes the Sword of Righteousness and our demon is instantly sorry he ever heard of St. Michael the Archangel.

This is really Pope Francis' first PR miscalculation. He has already managed to atone for the sins of the papacy in his famous "Who am I to judge?" interview about gay people. You'd think he might have learned from his predecessor's feathered follies.

Or maybe this will inspire him to reach back into his Gospel and show mercy to his winged tormenters. "Let he who is without sin … stone the crows."

ZOOM

I'm not ashamed of the way I look

SERGEY KOKINSKIY/SOLENT NEWS

Molting penguin is a head-turner

Even in the animal kingdom, a unique dress sense is sure to catch the eye of an onlooker. Here, a king penguin stands out from the flock as it has not finished its molting process. Photographer Sergey Kokinskiy travelled to the remote island of South Georgia in the southern Atlantic Ocean to capture the penguin flock, which can sometimes number over 200,000.

Every year in the spring, king penguins molt in order to replace old feathers with new ones, a process that lasts three to four weeks. As they molt, their feathers lose their insulating and waterproofing properties, so during this time penguins stay away from the water until their plumage is fully restored. As they fast while molting, penguins can lose 44 per cent of their original weight. METRO

A foreigner on their land

"Penguins' individual features allow the fur to stay on parts of the body longer than others."

Sergey Kokinskiy, from Tula, Russia

"If you sit down and don't make any sudden movements, the penguins with come to you within five or 10 minutes. Some will try to bite you too – out of curiosity."

King of the islands

- **Location.** Sits 1,390 kilometres to the east of Falkland Islands. Administered by the British government.
- **Population.** Approximately 2.23 million pairs of king penguins, with numbers rising. No human residents.

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

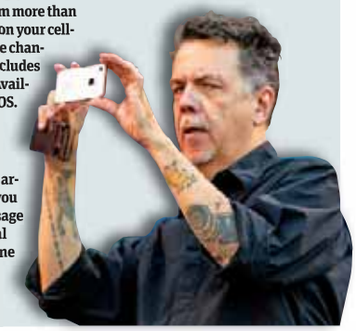
Much of the coverage of technology's darker side has focused on how they — governments, law enforcement, corporations — are using smartphones and computers to watch us. However, a smattering of intrepid developers are trying to turn the tables, building apps that empower us — either by letting us listen in or assist us during an arrest.

Police Scanner 5-0:

This free app lets you stream more than 2,500 police and fire feeds on your cellphone. Most of the available channels are American, but it includes some Canadian ones, too. Available for both Android and iOS.

I'm Getting Arrested:

In the event of an untimely arrest, this Android app lets you broadcast a pre-made message to your friends, family, legal counsel, etc. I want my phone call, indeed.



GETTY IMAGES

Twitter

@metropicks asked: According to Google searches, Canada is boring, corrupt and cold. How do you want Canada to be viewed?

@NerdwithWerds: Canada Home of Hockey and Great Beer

@awdarn: LOL if it keeps them away it's all good

@mtlkeith: Researched by who DUMB AND DUMBER??? #Canadaisthebest

@mtlkeith: Amen brother. Give me a Blue over here eh?

@iSeeHiighPeople: at least other countries (people) like us …. which is more than I can see for the folks just under us

@igor_mariano: Canada is all about cultural diversity and natural beauties

@PadraigBennett: exemplary in every aspect.

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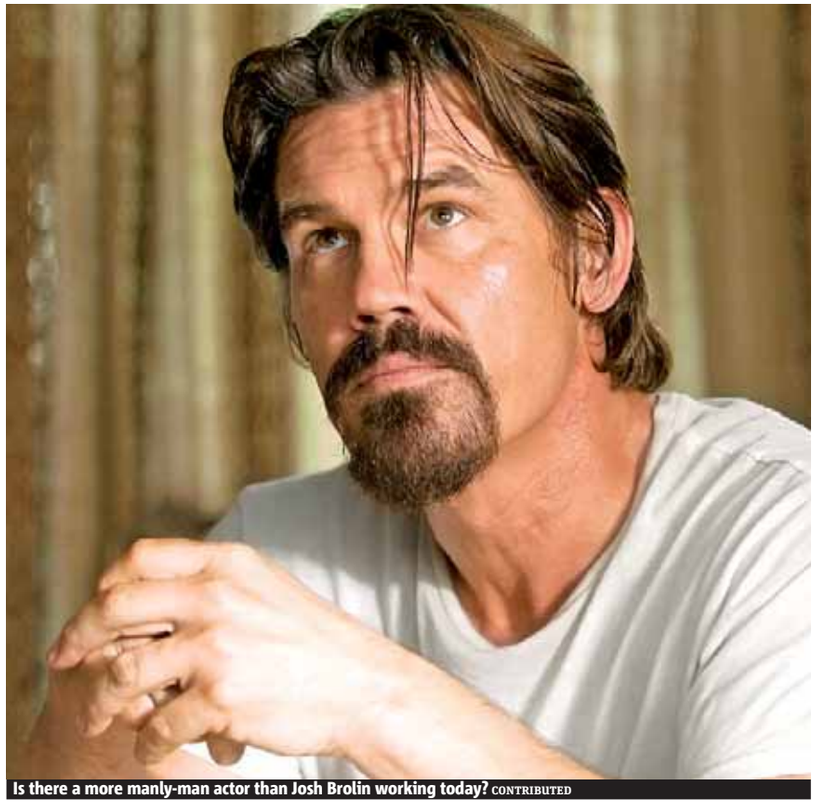
Need a troubled tough guy for your next film? Call Brolin

Labor Day. From crooks to cons, actor plays shady characters with aplomb

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca



Is there a more manly-man actor than Josh Brolin working today? CONTRIBUTED

In my review for the recent remake of Oldboy I wrote of Josh Brolin, "there is no more manly-man actor in the mold of Lee Marvin or Lee Van Cleef working today."

I guess that shouldn't be a surprise given that he was named after the rough-and-tumble character Josh Randall, played by Steve McQueen in TV's Wanted: Dead or Alive.

In Oldboy he's so tough he's a practically indestructible force of nature; able to withstand physical punishment that would make Grigori Rasputin look like a wimp.

The tough guy angle is one Brolin plays in a number of films, including his latest Labor Day.

He plays an escaped convict who hides out in the home of a depressed, widowed agoraphobic, played by Kate Winslet.

Over the course of one long holiday weekend she learns of his dangerous past and before you can say the words Stockholm Syndrome has fallen for the ruggedly handsome stranger.

It's the kind of role that Brolin has mastered; the multi-layered tough guy. But according to him, he doesn't seek out those roles.

He says he wracks his "brain like crazy trying to figure out which films I wanted to be in."

Some of those films include No Country for Old Men and Jonah Hex.

In the Oscar-nominated No Country he plays down-on-his-luck Llewelyn Moss, who stumbles across the site of a drug deal gone wrong.

Bullet-ridden dead men litter the landscape along with several kilos of heroin and a suitcase stuffed with two million dollars in cash. When he makes off with the money his life and the lives of those around him are changed forever.

Jonah Hex didn't earn any Oscar nods, but did get some Razzie attention in the form of nominations for Worst Screen Couple for Brolin and co-star Megan Fox.

The story of a supernatural bounty hunter set on revenge against the man who killed his family is as disfigured as its main character's face, but Brolin brings his real-life swagger to the role and has fun with some of the tongue-in-what's-left-of-his-cheek lines.

One tough guy role got away from him, however. Online speculation had it that he would be cast as the Caped Crusader in the upcoming Batman vs. Superman.

Although he would have been perfect for the part he lost out to Ben Affleck. Contrary to his bruiser persona he was gracious in defeat. "I'm happy for Ben," he said.

Greg Kinnear needs no approval in Rake

Keegan Deane is that one friend we all have who just can't get his act together. He's the loveable screw-up, and he's the star of the new comedy series Rake.

Portrayed by Greg Kinnear, Deane owes nearly $60,000 to his bookie, has been crashing at his best friend's house for four months, and is in love with a prostitute who views their relationship as a business transaction. He's a narcissist in denial, but he's also a brilliant defence attorney who is incredibly charming.

"I don't think he has a great self-awareness of [his problems]," Kinnear says of his character. "It comes in fits and starts. There are moments where he has a little bit of reflection about where he's at on the map, but certainly, you know, out of the gate, very little."

Deane's ego — and his utter lack of interest in adhering to normal societal standards — drew Kinnear to the series, which is based on an Australian show of the same name. "I was intrigued immediately when I saw the mess of that guy," he says. "That kind of absolute lack of need for approval is a hugely attractive thing, especially if you're an actor. Getting to play that and getting to pursue a guy who's not necessarily interested in what you think was a really cool element for me."

Which is a good thing, because Deane's clients in upcoming episodes include a serial killer and a cannibal — not your typical underdog stories. And yet, Rake finds a way to make the audience root for the antihero. Kinnear chalks it up to the show's fine-tuned ability to weave comedy into dramatic storylines.

"It really struck a nice chord between the drama and the comedy, which is what appealed to me," Kinnear says.

AMBER M. RAY/METRO WORLD NEWS

Details

Rake airs Thursdays on Global at 9 p.m. ET/PT.

Greg Kinnear plays Keegan Deane in Rake. CONTRIBUTED

School's out for Farmiga in At Middleton

Why follow the rules?
In this light comedy, Vera Farmiga plays to the dark side

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Andy Garcia and Vera Farmiga play a pair of wayward parents in At Middleton. CONTRIBUTED

Vera Farmiga stars alongside Andy Garcia in At Middleton, a deceptively light comedy confection about a pair of married strangers who ditch their kids for a day of shenanigans and self-discovery. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

The level of nuance in the characterizations here is refreshing. They're both married, not necessarily being the best parents, yet the film doesn't judge them.
I know, I know. It's actually quite dark underneath it all. I think that's the achievement of the piece, because you root for them. Complacency is the enabler of darker deeds. They don't necessarily play by the rules, but I think what matters is what they have learned.

To me in a loftier way, it kind of ponders this idea of is love a decision? Is it something you choose to do?

Films with that kind of contained time period are always fun.
Yeah, the deadline, I love that, just the one day. That one day is enough to make you bigger or smaller. Although there's so much swashbuckling to be had in that one 12-hour period. Sun up to sun down.

It's a bit odd to see you and your sister, Taissa Farmiga, playing mother and daughter.
I know, but she is like a daughter to me. As a matter of fact, I have a daughter named Gytta and I will exchange their names all the time. And I like to think I've been like a surrogate mom to her in a way, a valid role model, kind of, for what's scary, what's not, what it means to take risks and be positive and optimistic.

For me she was the only choice for the role. Had Andy not presented it I would've pitched her immediately because I want to work with her — not for, like, nepotistic reasons, but I genuinely think she's a formidable talent and she's got some raw, beautiful ability. She's unique. I had directed her and I knew her capacity within those scenes, but I wanted to share screen time with her. And this was the last sort of quality time we've probably had together.

Well, you're both very busy with TV shows.
Yeah, yeah. I love it. I love Bates [Motel] and I love the people that I work with. It's a formidable character. It's pretty cool. We've gotten closer and we challenge each other more. Everybody's more comfortable in their roles now, so I think season two is going to be pretty good, pretty vital.

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The Following gets a cult of its own

Q&A. Shawn Ashmore talks serial killers, sweaty palms and the appeal of horror TV

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO
Metro World News in New York

The Following has so much more going for it than six degrees of star power (Kevin Bacon is the lead). The creepy-as-hell crime thriller about a serial killer and cult leader with legions of murderous devotees scares up all kinds of drama.

We spoke with Shawn Ashmore, who plays Bacon's fellow cop Mike Weston.

What drew you to this project? Are you really into horror movies?
I'm definitely a fan of horror films and genre films. The best horror films, at least in my opinion, are the ones that create great characters for the first hour and then deliver on the scares.

I love slow-burn storytelling when it comes to horror films. All of these things kind of came together and made me realize that this was a show that I would probably watch and something that I would want to be a part of.

I feel like there is a trend right now in dark TV, horror shows and the like. What do you attribute that to?
There's an audience for horror films, so certainly there will be an audience, especially when well done, for horror television.

I can't think of any other type of entertainment that physically involves you and stimulates you as much as horror stuff, as genre stuff — like when you can't stand to watch the TV, when you have a tingle running up your spine.

And when you turn the episode off and you go and double-check that your front door is locked because there might be a follower outside, you know what I mean? That's the effect of entertainment.

Do you ever find yourself bringing your work home with you? Hearing bumps in the night, or getting scared when you're home alone because your mind is on the show?
No. The stuff that scares me is all supernatural stuff, ghosts, possessions. Obviously the idea of someone breaking into my house and murdering me is terrifying, but I feel like I could protect myself to a certain extent from something like that.

So, really, it's the unknown that scares me the most. It's the supernatural. The second I finished the pilot, after doing a ton of research on serial killers and stuff like that, I did install an upgraded security system in my house, so I can't say that it had no effect on me, but yeah, it's not something I really get freaked out about.

Do you have a favourite serial killer now?
I won't say favourite, but I did watch a ton of documentaries on YouTube. I spent days watching. The one serial killer that got under my skin the most was Jeffrey Dahmer. He was just so evil. They all are.

I mean if you commit those kinds of crimes ... These people were committing acts that — in my mind — I can only explain as evil.

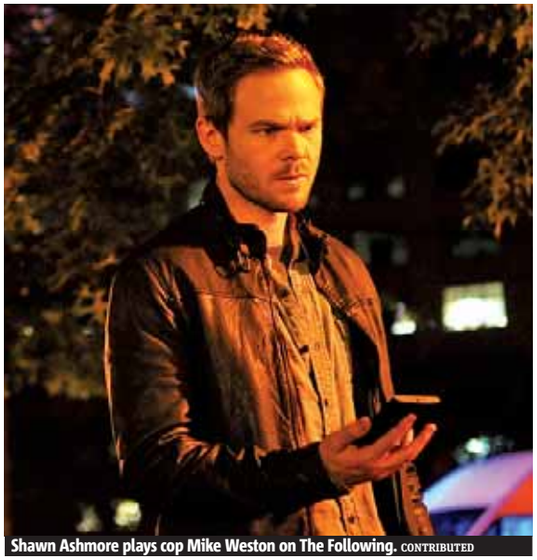
But Dahmer was one that really freaked me out.

I watched an interview with him once, when he was in jail, and what was scariest about him, to me, was that he seemed very charming and personable.
Some people have discussions about Joe Carroll (from The Following): You know, he's too handsome and blah blah blah.

Serial killers are most effective when they're charming and handsome because they're chameleons. That's why they're successful, because you don't see them coming.

I mean, if you see a guy that looks like a madman running around, the second you see him, your guard is up, and those are the guys that get caught right away.

I think that's why we have this fascination with serial killers: because we want to be able to stop them and see them coming. But if they're good at what they do, if they don't fit that profile, that's what's scary.


Shawn Ashmore plays cop Mike Weston on The Following. CONTRIBUTED

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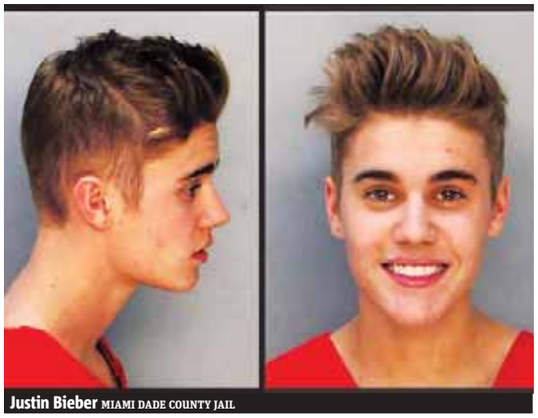
Bring roses for the judge? Biebs will go a-courting on Valentine's Day

Justin Bieber has a Valentine's Day date with a South Florida judge on charges of DUI, resisting arrest and driving with an expired license.

A Miami-Dade County judge on Tuesday set a Feb. 14 arraignment date for the 19-year-old star. In an arraignment, prosecutors formally file charges and a plea is entered, although a defendant's lawyer can enter the plea in writing. Bieber might not be required to attend.

Bieber and R&B singer Khalil Amir Sharieff were arrested last week in Miami Beach during what police described as an illegal street drag race between a Lamborghini and a Ferrari. Neither has been charged with drag racing.

Police say Bieber admitted to smoking marijuana, drinking and taking a prescription medication.



Justin Bieber MIAMI DADE COUNTY JAIL

Meanwhile, his detractors are growing bolder: A petition has been launched via the White House's online portal calling to have Bieber deported and his green card revoked.

The petition has already garnered more than 50,000 signatures, more than enough to earn some sort of response from the White House.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND METRO WORLD NEWS

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OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Will Madge sing with Miley?

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

I've been saying for some time now that the reason for Miley Cyrus' aggressive sexuality and sexy space alien look is that she's trying to be our generation's Madonna. However, I never expected that this would endear her to the original Madonna — the two are apparently planning a performance together.

Miley is working on an acoustic set for MTV's Unplugged. It seems like a good move for the Bangerz star: She's got the fame, now she needs the cred that comes from a vocal-driven, stripped-down set with no midgets to spank or foam fingers to hump.

And according to E! Online, rumour has it the Material Girl herself will stop by to perform with Miley.

The two were reportedly spotted rehearsing together, but MTV hasn't confirmed Madonna's appearance.

Was Sienna the mystery woman heard on Daniel's voice mail?

A U.K. tabloid reporter who has pleaded guilty to phone hacking said Tuesday that he played the News of the World's editor a hacked voice mail left for actor Daniel Craig by actress Sienna Miller, with whom Craig was having an affair.

Dan Evans is a prosecution witness at the trial of his former boss, Andy Coulson, and six others, on charges related to wrongdoing at the now-shuttered Rupert Murdoch-owned tabloid.

Evans told the trial that in 2005 he eavesdropped on Craig's voice mails and heard a message from a woman saying: "Hi, it's me. Cannot speak. I'm at the Groucho (Club) with Jude. I love you."

The call came from Miller's number. The newspaper later ran a story alleging an affair between the actress — then involved with Jude Law — and future 007 Craig.

Evans said Coulson heard the recording, then told him how to cover his tracks by making a copy, putting it in a bag and taking it to the newspaper's reception so it would look like it had been dropped off anonymously.

Murdoch shut the tabloid News of the World in 2011 after details emerged of the scale of its snooping on celebrities, politicians and others in the public eye.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Daniel Craig GETTY IMAGES

Flavor Flav released after speeding without a license

Flavor Flav GETTY IMAGES

A New York judge has released Flavor Flav without bail in his speeding case. State police say the rapper, whose real name is William Drayton, was speeding and driving without a license en route to his mother's funeral on Jan. 9. The rapper pleaded not guilty Tuesday.

Drayton, who lives in Las Vegas, was accused of driving 79 m.p.h. (127 km/h) in a 55 m.p.h. (89 km/h) zone on Long Island. Police say the Long Island native also had a small amount of marijuana.

His lawyer told the judge that she has taken care of 16 outstanding traffic matters.

Drayton had to remove his trademark clock from around his neck to pass through the metal detector. After court, he told journalists that "God is good." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ashley draws the bikini line

Ashley Benson GETTY IMAGES

Ashley Benson did some fairly revealing work in Spring Breakers last year, but don't expect to see much more of the Pretty Little Liars star on screen. "I never want to do nudity that's gratuitous. Girls look so much better in lingerie or a T-shirt and leave the rest up to the imagination," she tells Cosmopolitan magazine. "I make it clear that I have a line. Everyone tries to push you, and it's easy to get talked into doing those things. I'll just walk off set." METRO WORLD NEWS

The beach at Nisbet Plantation is a great place for a morning walk or for reading on one of the resort's comfortable hammocks. JIM BYERS/METRO

Nevis: Sun and simplicity

Natural beauty.
Looking for a laid-back escape? Check out this little Caribbean gem

JIM BYERS
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Old-time charm. Stunning beaches. And no high-rises.

They like to keep things simple on the Caribbean island of Nevis, where there's no American fast food and no casino but lots of natural beauty.

Here are four great ways to enjoy your stay.

Take a Peak

About 1,200 feet up the south slope of Mt. Nevis is an eco-friendly spot called Peak Heaven, where they'll show you how families used to cook their bread in communal ovens. You can get a massage on a deck overlooking a wide swath of green that rolls down to the sea and, on a clear day, spot the outline of Montserrat. Looking for something with some adrenaline? Ask one of the local guides to lead you roughly 2,000 feet higher up, taking a climb through thick jungle to the summit of Mt. Nevis. It's only $40 for a four-hour guided hike.

Get attacked by Killer Bees

Down at Sunshine's bar on Pinney's Beach, they make a wonderfully tasty concoction with rum and fruit punch called The Killer Bee. It's a gloriously ragged place that's been destroyed by hurricanes several times but keeps bouncing back. The bar is open to the elements and decorated in brilliant swatches of yellow, red, green and black. You'll find flags of Canada and Ireland and NFL teams hanging from the ceiling and photos of celebrities such as Beyoncé and Michael Douglas, as well as Wayne Gretzky. Sunshine's tells me Gretzky came down once with a couple hockey buddies, including Paul Coffey and Ray Bourque, and had a great old time.

Sunshine's beach bar is the place to go on Nevis for a lobster sandwich, a cold beer or their specialty drink, The Killer Bee. JIM BYERS/METRO

Here comes the sun

There are tons of great spots to enjoy the sun and sand in Nevis. On the north end, Oaulie has a fun, casual bar, and there are great views over to the peaks of St. Kitts. The west side offers great sunsets, of course, as well as the fine, sugary sand beach at Pinney's. It's a small, nearly round island with not many roads, so it's hard to get lost if you rent a moped for the day and search for your own stretch of sand. Local companies offer snorkel and scuba trips and deep-sea fishing, and the offshore waters are a playground for whales in winter.

Ride with the people

The island is filled with folks who drive fancy van/taxis with fun names such as "I Am What I Am" and "Easy Vibez." They'll sometimes charge a hefty price for a fairly short ride, however. To save money, do what the locals do. Simply stand by the side of the road (you don't need a formal bus stop) and wait for one of the small, independent drivers with a green license plate to come by. Then simply ask if he or she is going your way and negotiate a price. You'll probably climb into a small van filled with local women with their kids or teenagers heading off to a party or to the beach, but you'll probably only pay a couple bucks and you can listen in on conversations about the weather or troubled relationships.

Sleeping around

Try Nisbet Plantation on the northeast corner of the island for great food and hospitality, spacious grounds and a nice beach.

Welcome to Sochi

No doubt you have some questions about the Russian locale that will play host to the 2014 Winter Olympics. Here are a few details about the resort city dubbed the Russian Riviera.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For visitors to the Winter Olympics, Sochi may feel like a landscape from a dream — familiar and strange at once. Palm trees evoke a tropical seaside resort, but the Black Sea itself is seriously cold; turn away from the palms and the jagged, snow-covered peaks of the Caucasus Mountains rise nearby. Lively and garish modern buildings mix with Stalin Gothic piles, like trophy wives on the arms of elderly men.

Billboards are written in an alphabet in which some letters sound exactly like you think they do, others mean something else and the rest are flat-out alien. What may seem oddest of all is the city's cheerful and relaxed aura in a country stereotyped as dour. Even a local statue of Vladimir Lenin catches the casual vibe. He's not haranguing the masses, just standing under some trees with one hand in his pocket as if he's killing time waiting for a date.

Will they understand me?

Volunteer staff at Olympics test events spoke excellent English and sometimes struck up conversations just to improve their skills (or show off). But outside the Olympic venues and large hotels, communication in languages other than Russian can be difficult. The Games' organizing committee recommends that mobile device users download a translation app. The Cyrillic alphabet isn't as hard as it may look, and spending a couple of hours to master it brings sizeable rewards. Russian has many loanwords from English, French and German, so being able to sound out words can make the place pop into better focus. For example, knowing that "teatp" is pronounced "teater," it's a reasonable and correct guess that it means "theatre."

Am I in Sochi?

Rather like New York City, Sochi is a sprawling municipality, incorporating four boroughs. Confusingly, one of the four is called Sochi. So it's possible to both be in Sochi and say "I'm going to Sochi." All the Olympic events take place in the Adler borough, though the snow sports venues are often referred to as being in specific settlements such as Krasnaya Polyana and Esto-Sadok. Sochi borough is more or less the Manhattan of the city, home to the best restaurants, coolest clubs and the main cultural institutions. The urban part of Adler also has attractive restaurants. But while its attractions are relatively cosmopolitan, and its coastline is 90 miles long (145 kilometres), Sochi is not a big city population-wise, with only about 350,000 inhabitants.

An aerial view of some of the Olympic buildings under construction in Sochi. GETTY IMAGES

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The Caucasus Mountains rise above Sochi. ISTOCK

How's the weather?

Rain, snow, sun, fog, warmish, cold — a few days at the Olympics likely will include them all. On the coast, where the ice sports and opening and closing ceremonies take place, daytime temperatures should be around 50 F (10 C) and freezing is unlikely. In the mountains, temperatures generally don't get severely cold; at the lower elevations, where ski-jumping and sliding sports take place, the prospect of rain and above-freezing temperatures is a concern.

Both the Black Sea and Sochi's daytime temperatures should be around 10 C during the Games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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tico.ca

Cancun is all grown up

Beyond spring break. Mexico's top resort destination is ramping up the class with new attractions and amenities

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

More than 40 years after its inception and subsequent transformation into Mexico's premiere resort destination, Cancun is embracing middle age.

No longer just a place for college kids to get their groove on, Cancun is smart, sleek and more appealing than ever before.

Learn

Instead of worrying about the end of the world, Cancun marked the end of 2012 and the latest cycle in the Mayan calendar by opening the Cancun Maya Museum. Located in the middle of the hotel zone, the museum boasts three exhibition halls housing 350 artifacts, which tell the history of the Maya in the Yucatán.

The incredibly serene grounds contain the stone remains of the San Miguelito archeological site, inhabited more than 800 years ago. A quick wander through the museum and grounds will fuel your passion to get out and explore larger sites like Tulum or Chichén Itzá, one of the new Seven Wonders of the World.

Play

The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef is the world's second largest reef after Australia's Great Barrier Reef. It runs along the coast of the Yucatán Peninsula, making the waters off of Cancun a paradise for snorkellers and scuba divers.

You can also sail or boat or take a day trip to Isla Mujeres.

An easy excursion from Cancun, the island is a quieter, more low-key option for those looking to escape the crowds on the beaches off of Kukulkan Boulevard.

See

The city's latest offering is the inspired Cancun Underwater Museum, a collection of 400 submerged sculptures by eco-sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor.

Paradisus Cancun Resort features five pyramid-shaped buildings hugging the beach. PETER REMUS

Take a day trip to Isla Mujeres to escape some of the Cancun bustle. CANCUN CVB

The sculptures tell stories envisioned by the artist and are made with materials that are safe for the marine life. Together, the sculptures serve as an artificial reef and provide protection to the delicate coral.

Bring a snorkel and mask for a close up look.

Stay

The recently renovated Paradisus Cancun Resort is comprised of five pyramid shaped structures hugging the beach.

Apart from noticeably impressive service levels, the hotel's focus on food and drink makes it a great choice among the 150 hotels available to book. It offers an all inclusive daily rate, which is perfect for people who want to worry about the budget before vacation, not during.

However, no need to fear the dreaded buffet fatigue typical of many all inclusives, as this hotel has nine unique dining experiences offering everything from high-end international to sit down tapas to Latin fusion.

The Cancun Underwater Museum features 400 submerged sculptures. CANCUN CVB

Whistler. Pride week draws visitors from around the world

The Whistler pride parade kicks off with a rainbow flag being carried down the mountain. THE CANADIAN PRESS

When a group of skiers glides down a mountain on Friday carrying a giant rainbow banner and hands it off to participants in the Whistler pride parade, the town will be buzzing with visitors from around the globe.

One of the world's top-rated ski resort communities will turn into party central during the annual gay ski festival as the municipality proclaims Pride Week and raises a rainbow flag to welcome gays from 25 countries.

WinterPRIDE organizer Dean Nelson says about 3,000 people are expected at the sports, cultural and entertainment event that runs until Sunday.

Besides taking to the hills, participants will have a chance to enjoy dogsledding, snowmobile tours, tubing, ziplining, cooking classes and dance parties featuring top DJs from Barcelona and San Francisco.

The Mr. Gay Canada contest will also be held during the eight-day extravaganza, with the winner moving on to the world finals in Rome in August.

Most of the fun seekers will make the trek from across Canada, the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom, but more participants than ever are arriving from Croatia and Lithuania this year, Nelson says.

Many of them will have heard about the 22nd annual festival at the World Outgames in Antwerp, Belgium, where it was promoted last summer, he says.

In 2010, WinterPRIDE organizers created Pride House at Whistler for gay athletes and the public during the Olympics, further raising the festival's profile.

"It was our initiative to raise awareness of homophobia in sport and that has really put Whistler out there as one of the ski resorts in the world that is inclusive and diverse," Nelson says.

"It was the first time in Olympic history where diversity was celebrated and homophobia was talked about. London picked up the idea with Pride House in 2012."

Nelson says representatives from the City of Toronto, Tourism Toronto, Tourism Ontario and Pride Toronto will also be at WinterPRIDE this year to talk up that city's World Pride event, the first time it will be held in North America, as part of the annual Pride Toronto event this summer.

WinterPRIDE, which began as a small gathering in 1992, has increasingly involved the wider Whistler community.

"We work with local yoga studios and people do yoga retreats while their partner's out skiing," Nelson says.

While the festival is open to lesbians, transgendered people and bisexuals, Nelson says it draws mostly gay men, although there are a few events for women, such as the WOW party — the Women of WinterPRIDE dance — on Saturday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go...

- **More info.** Visit gaywhistler.com
- **Events.** Run until Sunday, Feb. 2.

Chowder leaves room for imagination

Weeknight meal. Loaded with seafood, this dish allows you to improvise ingredients without sacrificing any of the flavour

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

FLASH FOOD

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This chowder is quick enough to make for a weeknight meal or to keep in mind when entertaining on the weekend.

It has a creamy base to it but is not heavy because it uses milk instead of cream.

You can jazz the chowder up with additional flavours by adding diced tomatoes or other vegetables like peas and corn. Check out your pantry and get creative in the kitchen.

Tarragon is a licorice-flavoured fresh herb that shines through in this soup. Dried tarragon works just as well in a pinch. If tarragon isn't available, use Italian parsley for a fresh alternative.

Serve this soup with garlic bread and a green salad for a heart warming dinner that's perfect for a cold winter's night while keeping healthy in mind.

Cooking tips

- Look for fresh seafood at your local grocer and use it the same day or by the next day. If you are purchasing frozen seafood, let it thaw overnight in the refrigerator.
- You can use salmon to replace either the shrimp or scallops. One salmon portion, which is usually about 5 oz (150 g), is the perfect amount for this soup.

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) vegetable oil
- 1 shallot, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 stalks celery, thinly sliced
- 1 pkg (8 oz/227 g) mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 1 red pepper, diced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh tarragon or 1 tsp (5 ml) dried
- 2 cups (500 ml) 2 % milk
- 2 cups (500 ml) sodium reduced chicken broth
- 6 oz (200 g) raw shrimp, peeled and deveined, chopped
- 6 oz (200 g) bay scallops
- 1 can (142 g) baby clams, drained and rinsed

1. Heat vegetable oil in soup pot over medium high heat and cook shallot, minced garlic, celery, mushrooms, bell pepper and tarragon for about 10 minutes or until liquid evaporates.

This recipe makes six servings. EMILY RICHARDS

2. Add milk and broth and bring to a gentle boil.

3. Add shrimp, scallop and clams and simmer for about 5 minutes or until scallops are opaque and firm.

Just throw it in the bag

This Salmon Baked In a Bag recipe makes four servings. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. Heat the oven to 400 F. Cut the orange and lemon in half crosswise. Thinly slice 1/2 of the orange and 1/2 of the lemon. Juice the remaining halves of both fruits.

2. Set a 24-inch-long sheet of kitchen parchment on a baking sheet. Fold the sheet in half across the short side, then open the folded parchment (like a book), leaving one half of it on the baking sheet. Arrange about half of the orange and lemon slices in a single layer in the centre of the parchment on the baking sheet.

3. Sprinkle half the rosemary over the citrus slices. Set the salmon over the rosemary, then sprinkle with salt, the citrus juices and oil. Scatter the olives and chili over the salmon pieces. Top each piece of salmon with a quarter of the remaining rosemary and citrus slices.

4. Fold the second half of the parchment over the fish, then crimp and fold the edges together to create a sealed packet. Bake — on the sheet pan — on the oven's middle shelf for 10 to 12 minutes, or until just cooked through (stick a paring knife through the parchment and salmon; it should move easily through the fish if done).

5. Cut open the parchment, discard the citrus slices from the top of the salmon, then place each piece on a serving plate. Spoon some of the olives, chilies, rosemary and juices over each piece.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON, AUTHOR OF SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.

Ingredients

- 1 small orange
- 1 lemon
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh rosemary
- Four skinless 6-oz centre cut salmon fillet pieces
- Kosher salt
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/3 cup pitted and chopped olives, preferably oil-cured
- 1/2 serrano chili, thinly sliced crosswise

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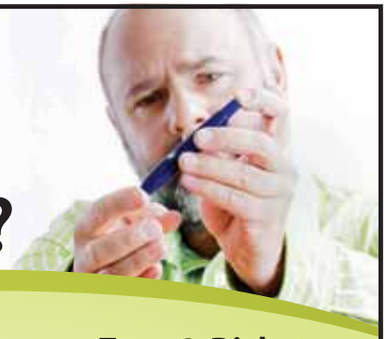

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It's raining mentors, hallelujah!

Happy National Mentoring Month. The time is right to consider the qualities of a good mentoring relationship, and some strategies for finding a great advisor

SIDNEYEVE MATRIX
TalentEgg.ca

It's a truism that having a mentor is important if you want to fast track your career.

An experienced advisor can steer you along a career trajectory, navigating around professional obstacles and raising your profile with senior executives.

Gaining the public endorsement of your mentor can go a long way toward building your professional credibility, especially if they are a recognized leader in the field. They can also assist you to better understand the industry.

Three qualities of great mentors

There is a long list of attributes to a successful mentoring relationship, but here are three of the most cited.

Accessibility
The right mentor can help you develop the skills for career success — and unlock a world of opportunity.

It may seem obvious, but a good mentor will consistently make time for you in their schedule. You'll get more out of a busy advisor if your meetings are structured with an agenda or at the very least, by a list of questions you come prepared with to productively guide the conversation.

Good listener
Your mentor must seek to understand who you are and what you need before jumping in with advice, knowledge and insights. Instead of delivering a lecture, the best mentors listen actively and ask the right questions — inspiring you to do the thinking.

Found a mentor?

Great, now keep looking for another one.

- As IMD Business School professor Suzanne de Janasz advises, "more is better than fewer" when it comes to career advisors.
- "Even if you have the smartest mentor in the world in your back pocket," De Janasz warns, and even if they provide you with excellent mentoring advice and the performance feedback you crave, "one person does not know everything."

Your mentor is someone you can trust to provide sincere performance feedback, since they are invested in seeing you succeed. ISTOCK

Confidence builder
In the process of engaging with your mentor you should be developing greater self-awareness. Your mentor should help you to see and believe in your own potential, challenge and inspire you, and encourage you to reach for your highest goals.

Finding your career mentor

Many workplaces have formal mentoring programs, but there are many ways to find informal mentoring relationships on your own.

Go back to class
Register yourself in a professional development seminar to learn a new skill or upgrade existing ones — and in the processes connect with industry experts. For example: Canadian Marketing Association seminars, the Entrepreneurs' Organization, the Canadian Association of Women Executives.

Use social media
Find, follow, and reach out online to influencers on Twitter, Google+, LinkedIn and Quora — to build a personal learning network. And don't forget to join and contribute to LinkedIn Groups.

Fill up your events calendar
Research and plan to attend industry events, to learn what's new and connect with organizers and speakers as prospective mentors. Introduce yourself, business card in hand, and having done your homework and perfected your elevator speech. And because, as Seth Godin rightly observed, "no one actually ever bought anything on an elevator" — craft your speech to begin professional relationships, not as a hard sell seeking to close a deal.

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Tell me more: What do you have to say for myself?

We, like our awesome Olympians, deserve to hear cheers when we're doing great things. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The feedback we crave. How to get it, how to use it, and how to give it back

SIDNEYEVE MATRIX
TalentEgg.ca

Recently, Canadian Olympic athletes were surveyed by Mondelēz Canada about the best ways for spectators to cheer them on to a gold medal standing in Sochi.

Fully three-quarters of them said that "hearing their fans cheering and shouting" and seeing them "waving encouraging signs of support" is highly motivational.

Feedback matters, to athletes, to all of us.

Sometimes feedback isn't easy to come by. For Gen Y, a cohort accustomed to the instantaneity of social media feedback loops, it can be frustrating when your work performance isn't evaluated. If feedback expectations are unmet, employees are likely to feel unmotivated, isolated, and are more apt to jump ship.

Thanks anyway: ignoring the wrong feedback

At other times we get feedback but fail to act on it.

This is especially common if the feedback feels like it's the wrong kind.

For example, we're unlikely to take feedback to heart when it seems contradictory. Likewise for many, praise and recognition, while nice to hear, are not what we most crave at work.

It turns out that six out of ten people prefer corrective feedback (such as suggestions for improvement) over positive feedback (such as congratulatory comments), according to Harvard Business Review.

Key attributes of efficient and usable feedback are frequency, clarity, and specificity, observes Jay Gilbert in the University of Western Ontario's Ivey Business Journal. But it takes time, and a lot of it, to provide that kind of personalized feedback.

As employers seek to create a culture of feedback and collaboration, more are adopting enterprise software systems to socialize employee reviews.

Helping staff get 360-degree peer-to-peer feedback — not once a year but continuously — is the idea.

It makes good business sense, because research shows that regular, low-stakes assessment is highly effective. That's because it allows the receiver to make incremental improvements and small adjustments. They are then less likely to become immobilized, defeated, and overwhelmed by a deluge of decontextualized feedback in an annual assessment.

Social feedback

If you feel the need for more feedback on your creative work and ideas, turn to the social web.

A bit of web sleuthing is almost guaranteed to uncover a niche community where you can engage in commentary, ask questions, and practice social reciprocity by giving feedback while also receiving it. Some examples:

Graphic designers and photographers

Look to the Behance network or DeviantART (both have free/paid options) to showcase and discover design work and submit your creative work for critique by a global community. If you're a photographer, Flickr or 1X (free/paid) communities are good bets to receive professional feedback. All of these sites also do double duty by hosting online creative portfolios for a fee.

Writers and editors

Want feedback on your writing? Beyond fan fiction sites, visit ABCTales (free) or Critique Circle (paid), two large active communities where published and aspiring authors can share, discuss and develop their work.

Fashion designers and stylists

For fashionistas, try LookBook and Polyvore to get community feedback from other (established as well as up-and-coming) stylists, models, and designers.

And as a bonus, by becoming involved in a feedback community, online or off, you'll also expand your professional networks — and don't forget that volunteering is another way to garner feedback while giving back.

Don't be surprised if a quest for feedback ends up inspiring your next great idea and uncovers some collaborators to help make it happen.

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Need to brainstorm on that business idea?

- If you have a new project or entrepreneurial endeavour and want to test it out and get some feedback on it, try Quora for general questions, and Kickstarter for both community feedback and funding support.

#QuestionoftheDay

If you could give your former self just ONE piece of career advice, what would it be?

@EDSPowell
I'd warn past-me that "concentrating on school" is not an exemption from "planning for after graduation."

@GarretHowes
get real experience before graduating. Joining different school initiatives, volunteering etc...

@SanchitaL
Create a 3 year short term plan & prepare questions on team culture/attitude & abilities for mentorship in yr interviews.

@ademoba
start your career in finance, stick with it and do a CFA

@robin_isTO:
"relax, be yourself" #beyourself #confidence

@graymalk:
it would be: don't waste time being too scared to try engineering. You can do it.

@HaliSamantha:
If I could give my former self ONE piece of career advice it would be: Do loads of informational interviews!

SPORTS 4

Buds win Blue-and-White bout

NHL. Kadri, JVR, Bernier star as Leafs end two-game slide

James van Riemsdyk's 21st of the season helped the Toronto Maple Leafs edge the Tampa Bay Lightning 3-2 on Tuesday night.

Van Riemsdyk one-timed a Phil Kessel feed to beat Tampa Bay starter Ben Bishop at 15:57 of the third for the game winner.

Less than a minute after van Riemsdyk's go-ahead goal, Lightning captain Martin St. Louis had an excellent chance for the equalizer, but was stopped by the left pad of Jonathan Bernier on a one-time shot.

Nazem Kadri scored twice in less than eight minutes to give the Maple Leafs (28-21-6) a 2-0 lead before the midway mark of the second period, but Matthew Carle and Mark Barberio responded for Tampa Bay (31-17-5) to tie it 2-2 after 40 minutes.

The win helped the Leafs avoid their fifth three-game losing streak of the season and halted the Lightning's three game win-streak.

Bernier made 40 saves in his first career start against the Lightning, while Bishop made 23 saves in the loss.

Kadri opened the scoring at 1:49 of the second period as his shot hit a Lightning player in front and fooled Bishop.

Then at 9:48, Kadri picked up his second of the night with a highlight-reel forehand-backhand deke to beat Bishop for his 14th of the season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On Tuesday

Maple Leafs	Lightning
3	2

Leafs defenceman Morgan Rielly and Lightning forward Ryan Malone battle in front of Jonathan Bernier's crease on Tuesday night at Air Canada Centre. Bernier made 40 saves in the victory. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Eyeing Sochi

Stamkos back on skates

Steven Stamkos still has his eyes firmly set on the Sochi Olympics.

Steven Stamkos
THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Tampa Bay forward practised 20 minutes during Tampa Bay's morning skate at the Air Canada Centre prior to the Lightning's game against the Leafs.

Stamkos' workout came after not skating Monday due to soreness in his surgically repaired right leg. He practised Saturday for the first time since suffering a broken right tibia Nov. 11.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sochi Games. COC expects to 'maintain the gain'

The goal is the same, but it will be harder to achieve without the advantage of home ice and snow.

Winning more medals than any other country is Canada's objective at the Sochi Olympics, as it was four years ago in Vancouver.

Canada's 26 medals was good for third overall in 2010, but winning the gold-medal count with a record 14 raised the stakes for Sochi.

Canadians know their country can be the best in the world in winter sports. The pressure is on to at least "maintain the gain."

"We want to be a contender for the total medals championship and to be number one," Canadian Olympic Committee president Marcel Aubut says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A bigger haul

36

There are 36 more medals to be won in Sochi than there were in Vancouver

Snowboard cross

Injury puts Ricker repeat in doubt

Defending Olympic snowboard cross champion Maelle Ricker needs surgery after suffering a wrist injury Tuesday.

The West Vancouver, B.C., native was injured during pre-Olympic training, putting her appearance at next month's Winter Games in Sochi in doubt.

Steven Hills, Canada Snowboard's executive director, couldn't say whether or not the injury was a break or fracture.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leiweke. MLSE boss talks Argos and future NFL deals

At a candid speech Tuesday night, MLSE CEO Tim Leiweke may have hinted at a future deal between the company he directs and the Argonauts.

Leiweke has said MLSE is interested in paying for an expansion of city-owned BMO Field, and soon, to include a partial roof and more seats.

"Yeah, there are rumours there may be a CFL solution, but we'll do it in a way you'll never know there's a CFL team when you're there for a soccer game, and you'll never know there's a soccer team when you're there for a CFL game," Leiweke said.

Tim Leiweke
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Later, he said giving football fans a chance to watch games at BMO Field would help a future push for an NFL team.

"So we're going to start with that. There's no way the NFL comes here without the CFL being unbelievably successful first," he said.

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Clockwise from top left: Broncos QB Peyton Manning, Seahawks WR Golden Tate, Seahawks QB Russell Wilson, Broncos WR Wes Welker and Seahawks CB Richard Sherman participate in Super Bowl media day on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

Manning reflects on climb back to the top

Super Bowl media day. Broncos QB ignored media 'narrative' as he faced uncertain future

When Peyton Manning returned to the NFL after a series of neck operations that sidelined him for the entire 2011 season, there was plenty of talk about when — and even whether — he would return to the level of play that earned four MVP awards and two Super Bowl appearances.

He ignored others' voices.

He couldn't ignore his own questions.

"I certainly had my concerns that entire time," Manning said Tuesday at Super Bowl media day, less than a week before he'll lead the Denver Broncos against the Seattle Seahawks.

"I had my concerns, because the doctors just couldn't tell me anything definite. They wouldn't say, 'You're going to be back at this time, at 100 per cent strength level.' They couldn't tell me," he continued. "So when the doctors can't tell you that, how do you really know? It was a matter of a lot of faith and trust."

Manning scoffed as he recalled what some said as he prepared to move to the Broncos from the Indianapolis Colts.

"There was a lot of 'narrative' out there. That's kind of my new word for the year," he said with a smile.

"There was a lot of 'narrative' out there on what I couldn't do: 'He can't throw to the left.' And, 'He really struggles throwing to the right.' I'm like, 'How do they know? I've been throwing in private the entire time.' ... At the time, throwing to the left was about the only thing I could do well," Manning said. "So there was a lot of misinformation out there."

As it turned out, Manning would be just fine.

Last season, he led the Broncos to the playoffs, earning NFL Comeback Player of the Year honours.

"I kind of joked, 'I never wanted to be eligible for that award.' When you're injured and you're out for a year, I guess that's kind of what it gets labelled," Manning said. "I've got to call it more of a second chance, second opportunity."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Focused on Feb. 2

"I've been asked about my legacy since I was about 25 years old. I'm not sure you can have a legacy when you're 25 years old. Even 37."

Peyton Manning in response to questions on what a Super Bowl would mean for his legacy

Super Bowl notes

- **Traffic turmoil.** The NFL is doing its best to get New Yorkers pumped up about the Super Bowl. The city is blocking off 13-blocks for four days, beginning Wednesday, for a series of fan-related events around Times Square.
- **Tate 1000.** Seattle receiver Golden Tate showed up Tuesday wearing Google Glass and a camera on his hat. Tate said he was "really impressed" with the glasses.
- **Ballin' Bronco.** No one was glittering on media day more than Denver's Malik Jackson, who wore a diamond-encrusted grill across his lower teeth, which brought plenty of requests for photos
- **"I'm playing," says Percy.** Seahawks wide receiver Percy Harvin says he is "absolutely playing" in the Super Bowl on Sunday after a season filled with "frustrating" health issues.

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For the latest information, visit us at chevrolet.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. *Offer applies to the purchase of 2014 Chevrolet (Cruze LS 1SA/Equinox LS FWD 1LS). ▼Based on a 60/48/36 month lease for 2014 Chevrolet (Cruze LS 1SA/Equinox LS FWD 1LS/Silverado 1500 Crew Cab 4WD 1WT+G80+B30). Annual kilometre limit of 20,000 km, $0.16 per excess kilometre. OAC by GM Financial. Monthly/Bi-Weekly payments may vary depending on down payment/trade. A down payment or trade of $0/$375/$650 and/or $0 security deposit is required. Total obligation is $11,026/$16,866/$15,369. Option to purchase at lease end is $6,510/$10,949/$19,155. Excess wear and tear and km charges not included. Other lease options available. ‡0% purchase financing offered by GMCL for 84/72 months on 2014 Chevrolet (Cruze LS 1SA/Equinox LS FWD 1LS). O.A.C by RBC Royal Bank/TD Auto Finance Services/Scotiabank. Rates from other lenders will vary. Example: $10,000 at 0% APR, monthly payment is $119.05/$138.89 for 84/72 months. Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $10,000. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly/Bi-weekly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Monthly/Bi-weekly payments based on a purchase price of $17,536/$27,815 with $2,050/$2,995 down payment. ♦$4,000 is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) for 2014 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. & Crew Cab and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Other cash credits available on most models. See dealer for details. ^/▼/‡/♦/^^^Freight & PDI ($1,600/$1,600/$1,650), registration, air and tire levies and DMVIC fees included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply as indicated to 2014 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Quantities limited; dealer order or trade may be required. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. +Based on WardsAuto.com 2012 Upper Small segment, excluding Hybrid and Diesel powertrains Standard 10 airbags, ABS, traction control and StabiliTrak®. ©The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications, LLC, used under license. ®Bluetooth is a registered trademark of Bluetooth SIG Inc. ♣Comparison based on 2013 Polk segmentation: Compact SUV and latest competitive data available and based on the maximum legroom available. Excludes other GM brands. Δ2014 Cruze equipped with standard 1.8L EcoTec engine and 6-speed manual transmission. 2014 Equinox equipped with standard 2.4L EcoTec engine and 6-speed automatic transmission. 2014 Silverado 1500 equipped with standard 4.3L EcoTec3 V6 engine and 6-speed automatic transmission. Fuel consumption based on GM Testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. ΔΔ2014 Silverado 1500 with the available 5.3L EcoTec3 V8 engine equipped with a 6-speed automatic transmission has a fuel consumption rating of 13.0L/100 km city, 8.7L/100 km highway and 11.0L/100 km combined 2WD and 13.3L/100 km city, 9.0L/100 km highway and 11.4L/100/km combined 4WD. Ford F-150 with the 3.5L EcoBoost V6 engine has a fuel consumption rating of 12.9L/100 km city, 9.0L/100 km highway and 11.1L/100 km combined 2WD and 14.1L/100 km city, 9.6L/100 km highway and 12.1L/100 km combined 4WD. Fuel consumption based on GM Testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. Comparison based on wardsauto.com 2013 Large Pickup segment and latest competitive data available. Excludes other GM vehicles. ♦When equipped with available 6.2L EcoTec3 V8 engine (available to order fall 2013). Class is Light-Duty Full-Size Pickups. ∞Requires 2WD Double or Crew Cab with available 6.2L EcoTec3 V8 engine and Max Trailering Package. Maximum trailer weight ratios are calculated assuming a base vehicle, except for any option(s) necessary to achieve the rating, plus driver. The weight of other optional equipment, passengers and cargo will reduce the maximum trailer weight your vehicle can tow. Comparison based on wardsauto.com 2013 Light-Duty Large Pickup segment and latest competitive data available. Excludes other GM vehicles. Class is Light-Duty Full-Size Pickups. ◊U.S. government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (safercar.gov). ††2014 Cruze LTZ MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $28,489. 2014 Equinox LTZ FWD, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $37,539. 2014 Silverado 1500 LTZ Crew Cab 4WD, MSRP $51,379. Dealers are free to set individual prices. **The 2-Year Scheduled Lube-Oil-Filter Maintenance Program provides eligible customers in Canada, who have purchased, leased or financed a new eligible 2014 MY Chevrolet, Buick, or GMC vehicle (excluding Spark EV), with an ACDelco oil and filter change, in accordance with the oil life monitoring system and the Owner's Manual, for 2 years or 40,000 kms, whichever occurs first, with a limit of four (4) Lube-Oil-Filter services in total, performed at participating GM Dealers. Fluid top offs, inspections, tire rotations, wheel alignments and balancing, etc. are not covered. 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2014 Toyota Highlander

Review. Building on good engines and solid street cred with more style and room

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

PHOTO: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

If you're wondering why minivan sales have been in steady free-fall for the past few years, it's partially because of vehicles such as the Toyota Highlander.

When it arrived for the 2002 model year, the Indiana-built Highlander was one of the initial part-wagon, part-sport utility vehicle models on the market. This so-called "crossover" borrowed its platform and basic running gear from the Toyota Camry, but added available all-wheel-drive and an occasional-use third-row seat to the mix a couple of years later. By then, the Highlander had become one of the most popular Toyotas on the market.

If there was a knock against the Highlander, it was that the vehicle's anonymous styling actually made it difficult to identify, even up close. That has now been rectified with the installation of one of the Toyota family's distinctive trapezoid-style grilles that quite honestly looks better on certain models than others.

That also goes for the cabin that is significantly roomier, thanks to some clever repackaging and a 15-centimetre wider body. That translates into a 9.5-centimetre wider interior, which is enough to provide space for three people for the third row seat in what had previously been a two-person affair. The Highlander now seats up to eight passengers.

Third-row access has been enhanced since the second-row bench (or optional dual high-back bucket seats) offer 7.6 centimetres of fore and aft travel. Both second- and third-row benches are split 60:40 for maximum stowage versatility. However when in full use, the area behind the third row has been enlarged by 34 per cent. Loading the cargo area can be accomplished with either the liftgate raised or with the optional flip-up rear glass raised.

The rest of the interior has been appropriately dressed-up with added soft-touch material covering the instrument panel plus new premium fabrics and faux wood trim on up-level trims. Powertrain options carry over unaltered from 2013 and vary according to need and your desire to minimize fuel consumption. The starting point is a 185-horsepower 2.7-litre four-cylinder, while a 270-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 is optional. Each is connected to a six-speed automatic transmission.

The thriftiest of the bunch is the all-wheel-drive Highlander Hybrid that uses a 231-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 combined with front and rear electric motors to generate 280 combined horsepower. This option, which is mated to a continuously variable transmission, is rated at 6.6 l/100 km in the city and 7.3 on the highway, compared to 12.6/8.7 for AWD-V6 Highlanders. Toyota continues to maintain a three-trim strategy for the Highlander. Base front-wheel-drive models cover most of basics and include heated side mirrors and dual-zone climate control.

Base V6 versions add a backup camera, power rear liftgate, eight-way power driver's seat and a 15.5-centimetre touchscreen for communications and infotainment services.

The top-level V6 Limited is gussied up with tri-zone climate control, perforated leather-covered seats (heated in front) and an Premium JBL audio system/navigation combo. The Highlander Hybrid can also be had in three trim levels, with prices ranging from $45,000 for the Standard Package, up to $54,000 for the Limited.

Whichever model you choose, the latest Highlander adds more style, comfort and spaciousness, which are features that ultimately lead to a more satisfying experience for drivers and passengers.

Compare

1 Chevrolet Traverse
Base price: $35,000

2 Mitsubishi Outlander
Base price: $27,700

2014 Toyota Highlander

- **Type.** Four-door, front-/all-wheel-drive, eight-person wagon
- **Engines (hp).** 2.7-litre DOHC I4 (185); 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (270); 3.5-litre V6 with front and rear electric motors (280)
- **Transmissions.** Six speed auto
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $33,400

Design

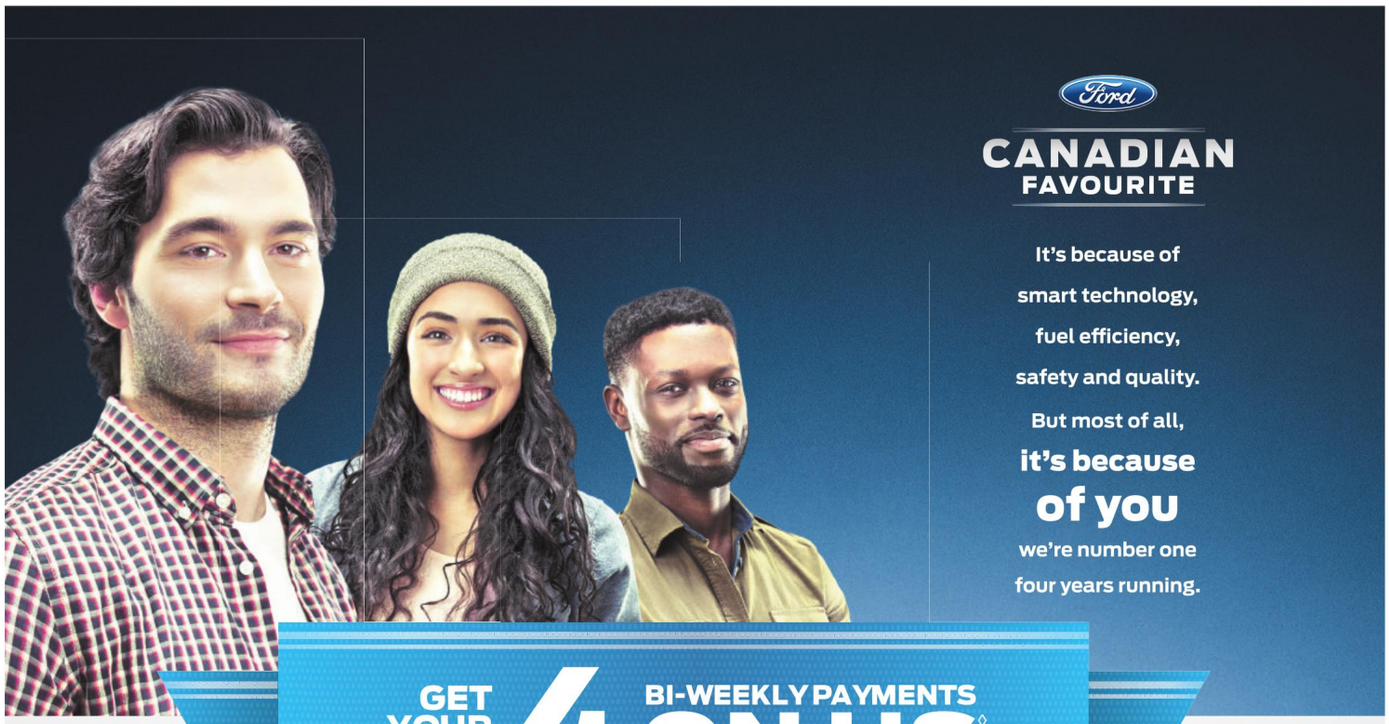
The Highlander projects more aggressiveness, but not to the degree that you would confuse if for an off-road-oriented 4Runner or king-size Sequoia wagon. The rest of the body from the hood to the liftgate is more shapely and correctly conveys the sense that the Highlander is a quality piece of work.

Fuel economy

At 10.4 l/100 km in the city and 7.3 on the highway, the front-wheel-drive-only four-cylinder has lower fuel consumption than the all-wheel-drive V6 and allows Toyota to peg the base price at $33,400, including destination charges.

DRIVE

*Limited time 2.9% semi-monthly lease offered through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit to qualified retail customers on all new 2014 Corolla models. First semi-monthly payment due at lease inception and next semi-monthly payment due approximately 15 days later and semi-monthly thereafter throughout the term. Toyota Financial Services will waive the final semi-monthly payment. Semi-monthly lease offers not open to employees of Toyota Canada, Toyota Financial Services or TMMC/TMMC Vehicle Purchase Plan. Some conditions apply. See your Toyota dealer for complete details. Example (applies across Canada except Quebec): 2014 Corolla CE 6M with a vehicle price of $16,415 (includes $1,100 Toyota Canada Lease Assist, which is deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes, and $1,520 freight/PDI) leased at 2.9% over 60 months with $0 down payment equals 120 semi-monthly payments of $89 with a cost of borrowing of $1,735.85 and a total obligation of $12,369.05. $0 security deposit and first semi-monthly payment due at lease inception. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, registration, fees and taxes. 100,000 km allowance for 60 months, with ability to purchase additional kilometres at $0.05/km at time of lease inception, and a charge of $0.07/km for excess kilometres. Dealer may lease for less. †Toyota semi-monthly lease program available on 48 month and 60 month terms. Toyota semi-monthly lease program based on 24 payments per year, on a 60-month lease, equals 120 payments per year, with the final 120th payment waived by Toyota Financial Services. Competitive bi-weekly lease programs based on 26 payments per year, on a 60-month lease, equals 130 payments per year.



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Platinum model shown.

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Decent Evolution can be all-season blast

Second gear.
2008-2013
Mitsubishi Lancer
Evolution

JUSTIN
PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

The current Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution launched for 2008 and has been largely unchanged since. This range-topping Lancer variant amounts to a four-door, four-wheel drive surface-to-surface missile engineered for full access to its considerable performance capabilities regardless of skill level, location or prevailing weather conditions. As something of a road-legal rally-car, the Subaru WRX STI is the 'Evo's primary competitor. Feature content may include navigation, xenon lights, a sunroof, Bluetooth, voice-command, automatic climate control and heated Recaro seats. On models where they weren't standard, a performance package added Brembo brakes and upgraded shock absorbers ideal for laying the smack down at track-day.

Common issues

Put your used sports-car hat on when meeting with potential Evolution candidates. Start with the tires and brakes, inspecting for signs of excessive wear. Note that driving on the factory-equipment tires in wintertime is a great way to wind up high-fiving a guardrail, so budget for winter tires and wheels if they aren't included. Be absolutely sure all maintenance requirements have been adhered to—budgeting for a full fluid change if you're unsure. Some owners report 'weak' factory clutches which wear out more quickly than expected, so 'feel' the clutch engagement for signs of slippage and wear. If you're going with the TC-SST gearbox, 'feel' it for proper operation. Slippage under moderate throttle while locked into gear can be a sign of worn clutches or internal seals. Some have reported having the transmission replaced under warranty, too. A shaky idle engine could be caused by the failure of a poorly-installed vacuum line to stay connected to a fitting on the engine, which is an easy fix. Finally, ask a Mitsubishi mechanic to locate the AYC / ADC pump, which controls part of the AWD system. Have the mechanic confirm that the pump isn't heavily rusted or leaking, as many owners have reported rust-related issues and pump failure.

PHOTO: PROVIDED

What owners like

Evolution owners love the performance, boy-racer looks, four-door functionality and all-season shenanigans enabled by their ride. The Rockford Fosgate stereo with subwoofer is rated highly too.

What owners dislike

Complaints include the el-cheapo cabin feel, low-budget materials, excessive wind and road noise, excessive thirst for high-test gas, and a confusingly large turning circle.

Engine

All models got a 2-litre turbo four-cylinder with intercooler, good for 291 horsepower. That engine came teamed with either a manual or a Twin Clutch Sportronic Shift Transmission (TC-SST). Mitsubishi's sophisticated, award-winning Super All Wheel Control AWD system was standard.

The verdict

Stick to as stock a model as possible, be sure all fluids have been changed religiously, continue changing all fluids religiously, and be on the lookout for signs of transmission trouble and excessive abuse. An on-the-hoist inspection at a Mitsubishi dealer is strongly advised.

Parts department

WHEELBASE MEDIA

More McQueen

For many people, actor/racer Steve McQueen has yet to be topped as the coolest cat who ever lit up the screen. And that includes Sean Connery, Paul Newman, James Garner and any of the current crop of heartthrobs. Sonic Editions, a company that specializes in all kinds of classic images, offers limited-edition Steve McQueen photographs from the Michael Ochs Archives in Los Angeles, Calif. Ochs took most of the pictures back in 1971 when McQueen was directing and starring in his racing movie entitled "Le Mans". Each of the prints is produced on high-grade Fujicolor Crystal Archive paper and comes professionally framed. Order your McQueen copy starting at $120 US for an 11- x 14-inch print (up to $380 US for the 24- x 30-inch version) from soniceditions.com.

Jeeps for tots

It seems as though Chrysler's Jeep division is out to reel in prospective buyers almost as soon as they're born, or at least convince their parents to get one. Among Jeep World's wide range of accessories is its line of baby strollers, including this neat three-wheel Jeep Adventure Jogging Stroller. It features the kind of accessories you would find or appreciate on an actual Jeep, including a shock-absorber suspension, multi-position reclining seat, height-adjustable steering handles, cup holders, stowage basket and five-point safety harness. Also included is what's called an iBaby sound system for connecting your portable audio device. The Jeep Adventure Jogging Stroller rolls on 26-centimetre pneumatic tires and has a 27-kilogram capacity. Buy one for $250 US from jeepworld.com.

Bueller's movie house

For die-hard fans of Ferris Bueller's Day Off, this would make the ultimate piece of movie memorabilia. Up for sale is the home where, in the 1986 film, Ferris's pal Cameron lived. As you might recall, it's also where Cameron's father parked his 1961 Ferrari 250 GT California Spyder. The red roadster (in reality, a Ford-V8-powered replica) figured prominently in the film and, near its conclusion, it ended up in a ravine after Cameron pushed the car — which was up on jack with the wheels spinning — backward through one of the garage's plate-glass windows. Actually, the four-bedroom Highland Park, Ill., (a Chicago suburb) house has been on the market for some time for $1.65 million US. The asking price has recently dropped to a more affordable $1.5 million US (not including the Ferrari). Visit: redfin.com.

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Price for 2013 Dodge Dart GT shown: $25,590.§

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¤Based on 2013/2014 EnerGuide highway fuel consumption estimates. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on powertrain, driving habits and other factors. See retailer for additional EnerGuide details. 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package – Hwy: 7.9 L/100 km (36 MPG) and City: 12.2 L/100 km (23 MPG). 2013 Dodge Dart AERO – Hwy: 4.8 L/100 km (59 MPG) and City: 7.3 L/100 km (39 MPG). 2014 Dodge Journey 2.4 L with 4-speed automatic – Hwy: 7.7 L/100 km (37 MPG) and City: 11.2 L/100 km (25 MPG). Wise customers read the fine print: € , •, *, ♦, †, ∞, § The First Big Deal Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating retailers on or after January 7, 2014. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. All pricing includes freight ($1,595 – $1,695), air tax (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. €$8,100 in Total Discounts is available on the new 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package model and consists of $8,100 in Consumer Cash Discounts. •$19,995 Purchase Price applies to the new 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E) and includes $8,100 Consumer Cash Discount. $16,995 Purchase Price applies to the new 2013 Dodge Dart SE (25A) only. $19,995 Purchase Price applies to the new 2014 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F) only and includes $2,000 Consumer Cash Discount. *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on select 2013/2014 vehicles and are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. ♦4.99% lease financing of up to 60 months available on approved credit through WS Leasing Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Westminster Savings Credit Union) to qualified customers on applicable new 2012, 2013 and 2014 models at participating retailers in Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may lease for less. See your retailer for complete details. Examples: 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E)/2013 Dodge Dart SE (25A)/2014 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F) with a Purchase Price of $19,995/$16,495/$19,995 leased at 4.99% over 60 months with $2,599/$3,029/$3,779 down payment, equals 260 weekly payments of $49/$49/$49 with a cost of borrowing of $3,834.80/$2,718/$3,494.10 and a total obligation of $14,567.80/$14,661.40/$14,619.80. †0% purchase financing for up to 36 months available on new 2013 Dodge Dart models to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. See your retailer for complete details. Example: 2013 Dodge Dart SE (25A) with a Purchase Price of $16,995, with a $0 down payment, financed at 0% for 36 months equals 78 bi-weekly payments of $217.88 with a cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $16,995. ∞NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Contest begins November 27, 2013 at 9:00:00 a.m. ET and ends February 28, 2014 at 11:59:59 p.m. ET. Contest open to legal residents of Ontario who have reached the age of majority at the time of entry. One (1) entry per person. To enter, you must visit any participating Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram retailer during the contest period and purchase/finance/lease any new 2012, 2013 or 2014 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge or Ram vehicle (excluding SRT Viper models). Four (4) grand prizes available to be won, each consisting of a pair of VIP tickets and trip to watch the 2014 Battle of Ontario in Ottawa on April 12, 2014. Tickets are for April 12 ONLY. Prize includes round trip travel for two and two night's hotel accommodation (if required). Approx. retail value: $5,000 per prize. Mathematical skill-testing question required. For complete contest rules, including no purchase means of entry, go to: www.chrysleroffers.ca/battleofontario. §2014 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew Plus shown. Price includes Consumer Cash Discount. 2013 Dodge Dart GT shown. 2014 Dodge Journey R/T AWD shown. Price includes Consumer Cash Discount. ΦBased on U.S. market and vehicles under $18,000 US. For more information, visit www.kbb.com. Kelley Blue Book is a registered trademark of Kelley Blue Book Co., Inc. **Based on 2013 *Ward's* upper small sedan costing under $25,000. ^Based on R. L. Polk Canada, Inc. May 2008 to September 2013 Canadian Total New Vehicle Registration data for Crossover Segments as defined by Chrysler Canada Inc. ❖Real Deals. Real Time. Use your mobile device to build and price any model. 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AGM units has the battery power X-Factor

Driving Force. Absorbed glass mat batteries deliver a quicker and more reliable charge for electrically heavy cars

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

A good battery can make the difference between getting to work on a cold morning, or sitting in your driveway waiting for a boost. A technology called absorbed glass mat, or AGM, can help improve its performance. That's an important consideration, since the battery does more than just start your car.

"The charging system can't keep up with all the demands that you place on the vehicle," says Sergio Marsili, senior buyer for automotive batteries at Canadian Tire. "You have the heater, the air conditioning, the heated seats, headlights, the radio. Some cars have as many as fifty computers in them that need to be powered.

"On an older car, you could jump-start your battery and drive for a few hours, because there were very few electronics in the car. Today, if you have a broken battery, jump-starting it might get you started, but two minutes down the road it may stall again, because it needs that power from the battery."

Car batteries make electricity through a chemical reaction between electrodes, usually made of lead, and a liquid electrolyte, usually sulphuric acid—which is why they're called lead-acid batteries.

In an AGM battery, there's a fiberglass mat between the electrodes, which holds the electrolyte like a sponge. "There's no free-flowing liquid, so nothing leaks out or is sloshing around in there, and the electrolyte is suspended in these glass mats under very tight compression," Marsili says. "The benefit is that the battery charges faster, even in cold temperatures, and it's always at a higher state of charge than a regular battery might be."

Most car batteries provide a lot of power in a short burst when starting, and then they recharge. They're not designed for deep discharges, such as when you leave your headlights on or run electronic features with the engine off, but AGM batteries can better tolerate it. Because they're tightly packed inside, they're also less likely to be affected by vibration, such as if you drive a lot on rough roads.

Once a battery's about three years old, it should be checked by a technician before each winter. "About one-third of customers replace their batteries proactively, while the other two-thirds wait for it to fail," Marsili says. "There's nothing more frustrating than a dead battery."

To note

- **Maintenance.** The charging system doesn't run all the time on many new vehicles, to improve fuel efficiency, so a well-maintained battery is even more important.
- **Check up checklist.** A battery inspection should include checking the cables and cleaning any corrosion off the terminals.
- **Remember.** Constant short trips are hard on your battery, because it doesn't have a chance to fully charge.

AGM or Absorbed Glass Mat batteries charge faster and are more reliable.

AGM batteries help electronically-heavy cars manage better. BOTH CANADIAN TIRE

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Equus Bass 770 allows fans to dream

The body of the Equus Automotive pays homage to the old Ford Mustang Fastback . EQUUS AUTOMOTIVE

$250K US price tag. Anonymous passionate millionaire built 100 of these gems and the aesthetically pleasing model surprised many at the Detroit Auto Show

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The interior of this dream car is a beautiful blend of classic and modern.

By the time Equus Automotive took the stage at the 2014 auto show in Detroit, the press crowd had thinned out appreciably. Getting slot number 32 on a two-day press conference schedule will do that to anyone, especially to an automaker hardly anyone has ever heard of before.

But Equus Automotive managed to make a bit of a buzz at Detroit by the best way possible — by introducing an exciting automobile, and one from left field so to speak.

The Equus Bass 770 was touted as the quintessential American Luxury GT. Its overall shape pays obvious homage to the Ford Mustang Fastback, circa 1969, while the front grille and headlight design seems to channel the vibe of the Plymouth GTX or Plymouth Roadrunner, circa 1971.

It has a 640-hp V8 from General Motors, and lots of aluminum construction to keep the weight down. Not surprisingly, it accelerates real good and tops-out at over 200 mph (321 km/hr). If you want a totally modern car under a body inspired by the golden age of American pony cars, this is your ride — as long as you can plunk down the US$250,000 asking price.

The 25 employees at the Equus factory in Rochester Hills, Michigan, can build about 100 cars a year. So far 20 orders have been placed, all from overseas customers.

Race driver Ian James is the spokesman and ambassador for Equus; he noted the company is owned and bankrolled by a European businessman who has a passion for classic muscle cars but wishes to remain behind the scenes.

I find it fascinating how these wealthy "car guys" keep doing this — imagining their perfect ride and then setting up a company to build a small number of them. Why don't they just build one from scratch for themselves and forget about all these tooling and development costs?

I guess having a custom-built car is one thing, but having it come to life via a genuine car company, and then have other people confirm your aesthetic by buying some examples, is a level or two better on whatever scale they operate on.

It can't be for business reasons. History has shown that when relatively small companies tool up to build limited-production high-end cars, things tend to go real-bad real-fast in the accounting department. They're up against very high production and design costs, a very limited and fickle market, and not much room for error.

You only had to look at the Detroit press conference held immediately before the Equus event. Henry Fisker's dream to build the Fisker Karma plug-in hybrid went bankrupt this year. VL Automotive, co-founded by industry veteran Bob Lutz, is taking those beautiful but suddenly not-worth-so-much Karma bodies and reformulating them with Corvette V8 engines — basically the same engines in the Equus Bass 770.

But you gotta love guys like Henry Fisker, Malcolm Brickland, Giotto Bizzarini, Alejandro de Tomaso, etc., as well as that unnamed guy behind the Equus Bass 770. They all brought, or bring, passion, interesting stuff, and colour to the automotive landscape.

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2014 Mazda5

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE:
2.5L/157HP, 6 speed transmission, 16"Alloy, Automatic head lights, Rain sensing wipers, Power door locks Keyless entry, Anti theft alarm system, Auto climate control, Rear ac vents
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MODEL CODE: E6SD64 AA00

2014 Mazda6

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE:
2.5 L Skyactive Engine, 184HP, 6 Speed transmission, Heated front seats, 5.8' colour touch screen, Push button start, Air conditioner, USB input, LED tail lights, 17" alloys wheels, Blue tooth, Cruise control, Trip computer, Ventilated disc brakes, Traction control, 6 air bags
$26,323 excludes HST
MODEL CODE: G4XL64 AA00

2014 CX-5

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE:
2.0L Skyactive engine, 155HP, 6 speed transmission, Cruise control, Air conditioner, CD/AM/FM 4 speakers, Push button start,USB input, Keyless entry, Disc brakes, ABS, Traction control, 6 air bags, 17" wheels, Power windows, Power mirrors
$25,023 excludes HST
MODEL CODE: NVXK64 BA00

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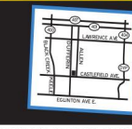
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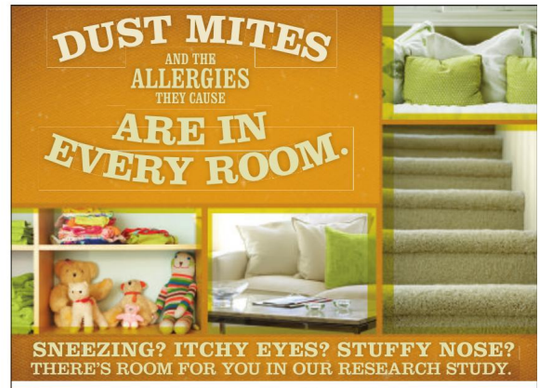

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may dream of starting from scratch some place new but deep down you know it isn't going to happen. Focus on making the best of where you are and what you have got.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You may be determined to discover the truth about something you believe others have been covering up but don't start reading fanciful stuff into situations that are really quite normal.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
A friendship that has been on a downward spiral will pick up again as from today. You will have to accept that in certain areas you are and always will have different points of view.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
What you say and do now will determine the level of material and professional success you will enjoy over the next few months. Don't say and do what you think will please those in positions of power. Please yourself first.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Your aims may seem impractical to some but so what? The approaching new moon will give you a head start on your rivals and no matter how far behind you may be, you will soon be ahead of the pack.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Don't fret about how much something is going to cost you. If it is really what you want to be doing then just get on and do it and worry about the financial considerations later.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Romantic relationships are well starred today. Let the object of your affection know that they are, always have been, and always will be number one in your heart. If you do, the next few days will be extra special.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If your daily routine is too demanding, maybe it's time you did something about it. However, because the changes you make this week are likely to become permanent, make sure you really want them.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Why are you not getting what you want out of life? If you are honest, you will admit it is because you are spending too much time on things of minor importance. Use your talents!

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Help loved ones feel as good about themselves as you feel about yourself. That may be no easy task but it must be done because happiness at home is essential to other things.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The things you think about today are the things you will be doing tomorrow and the day after that, no matter how outrageous some of your thoughts may be!

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Listen to advice and don't be afraid to act on what you hear. Not everyone is trying to trick you or steal from you, so play down your suspicions and play up to the kind of important people who can help you.

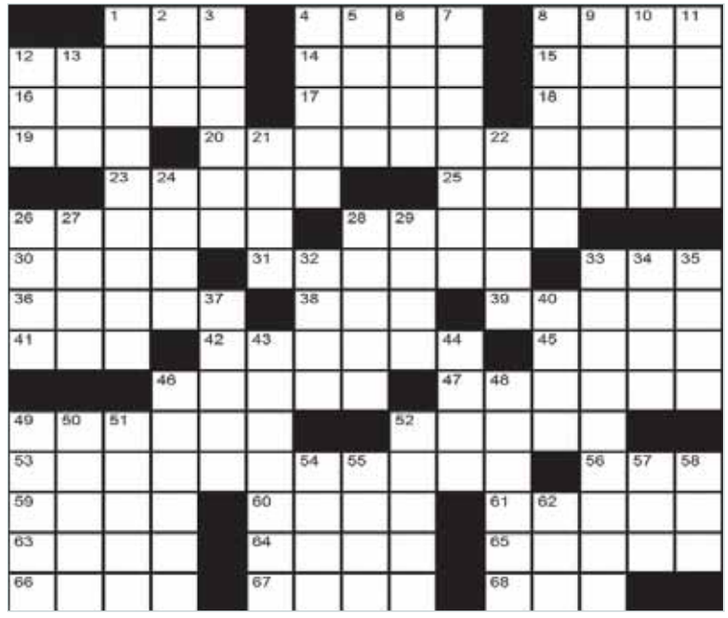
SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

The last four clues were omitted from yesterday's puzzle. We apologize for the inconvenience. Visit metronews.ca/missingclues.

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

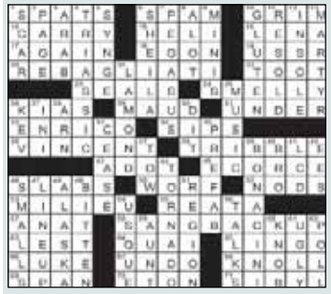
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Chitchat
4. Magician's prop
8. "Shoot!"
12. Nickname of Prince Charles' first bride: 2 wds.
14. Wing-shaped
15. "__ Beach" by Martha & The Muffins
16. Trunk
17. Doubled Doris Day song word
18. Transport by ocean
19. Whistle blower?
20. Ottawa-born star-of-the-slopes/ Olympian: 2 wds.
23. Top-tiered star's spot
25. Health care professionals
26. Turn the key and open
28. Bobby Hull's son
30. Get ready for the trip
31. Detective
33. Shortened home
36. Unflappable
38. Legendary boxing surname
39. Area near Montreal, The South __
41. Languish
42. Former Canadian department store
45. Not much, just _.__
46. Fashion retailer Michelle Obama likes, _.__
47. Charge in the court
49. Quebec Premier, Pauline __
52. Embellishments-less
53. Rural-esque region of Winnipeg
56. Enshrouded
59. Emptiness
60. Ms. Peeples' others
61. Figure of speech
63. Rick's movie beloved
64. Eye part
65. Peter of Herman's Hermits
66. Religious realm
67. Mention
68. Mr. Byrnes of "77 Sunset Strip"

Down
1. Arctic hunting bird which is NWT's official bird
2. Dates not as ancient as BCs
3. It describes Jaime Sommers
4. "Hmmm, I __ aware of that."
5. Baldwin brother
6. Not
7. 1987 movie in which Dan Aykroyd starred as classic TV character Sgt. Joe Friday
8. Sahara __
9. Throbs
10. Big river in Europe
11. Slangy negatives
12. Geography abbr.
13. Cultivate
21. Questions
22. Ms. Buzzi of "Laugh-In", and
24. Tricky Norse deity
26. __-daisy
27. Mr. Berkus, Oprah protege
28. Bruce Greenwood film, "Eight __" (2006)
29. Total
32. Tardy
33. Movie with a big Bryan Adams hit, "__ __: Prince of Thieves" (1991)
34. Country's Mr. Church
35. Paving†stone
37. Mr. B. DeMille
40. "Well, __ _ known that..." (Things would be different now if...)
43. Particular poison
44. Barn's pal
46. Musician Marc
48. Chuck Berry title song lady
49. Christine of Fleetwood Mac
50. '60s tune: "You Really Got _ __ on Me"
51. Lift
52. Western movie search party
54. iPhone's voice-activated helper
55. Serve at the restaurant
57. Highway 'home'
58. Tint
62. Mr. Stewart

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	3		9		4		1	
7								8
		5		7		4		
	7	3		4		1	2	
	6			5			3	
	1	4		9		6	8	
		7		8		2		
6								3
	2		1		7		5	

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	5	2	3	7	9	8	4
7	4	3	1	8	9	2	5	6
9	8	2	4	6	5	3	1	7
5	2	4	7	1	3	6	9	8
6	9	1	8	5	2	7	4	3
3	7	8	6	9	4	5	2	1
2	3	6	5	4	8	1	7	9
4	5	9	3	7	1	8	6	2
8	1	7	9	2	6	4	3	5

Today
-10°/-13°
Flurries
40%

Thursday
-4°/-7°
Partly cloudy

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15TH ANNIVERSARY SALE

THROWBACK PRICING≠

PAYMENTS LIKE THEY WERE 15 YEARS AGO

2014 IIHS TOP SAFETY *PICK*

Optima SX AT shown^

THE NEW 2014 **OPTIMA**

hwy / city 100km* 5.7L/8.9L

WAS ~~$151~~

THROWBACK PRICING

$111≠ BI-WEEKLY for the first **15 MONTHS.**

6-SPEED AUTOMATIC

0.99% financing

Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. $111 bi-weekly payments include $1,280 Throwback Pricing Incentive. Payments are based on 2014 Optima LX AT (OP742E), 60-month financing amortized over 84 months. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to $151. Principal balance of $7,793 due after 60 months. Throwback Pricing Incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce financed amount.▪

2013 IIHS TOP SAFETY *PICK*

Forte SX shown^

THE ALL-NEW 2014 **FORTE**

hwy / city 100km* 5.3L/8.0L

WAS ~~$98~~

THROWBACK PRICING

$78≠ BI-WEEKLY for the first **15 MONTHS.**

0% financing

Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. $78 bi-weekly payments include $640 Throwback Pricing Incentive. Payments are based on 2014 Forte LX MT (F0541E), financing for 84 months. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to $98. Throwback Pricing Incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce the financed amount.▪

Rio4 SX with Navigation shown^

THE NEW 2014 **RIO**

hwy / city 100km* 5.3L/7.5L

WAS ~~$91~~

THROWBACK PRICING

$71≠ BI-WEEKLY for the first **15 MONTHS.**

0.99% financing

Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. $71 bi-weekly payments include $640 Throwback Pricing Incentive. Payments are based on 2014 Rio LX MT (R0541E), 60-month financing amortized over 84 months. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to $91. Principal balance of $4,660 due after 60 months. Throwback Pricing Incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce financed amount.▪

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The Power to Surprise

Offer(s) available on select new 2013/2014 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery by January 31, 2014. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. All pricing includes delivery and destination fees up to $1,665, $34 tire recycling/filter charges, $5 OMVIC fee, environmental fee, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399) and $100 A/C charge (where applicable) and excludes licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. ≠Throwback Pricing available O.A.C. on financing offers on new 2013/2014 models. 0% financing for 84 months example: 2014 Forte LX MT (F0541E) with a purchase price of $17,913 (including $1,485 freight/PDI and $399 administration fee) financed at 0% for 84-month period equals 32 reduced bi-weekly payments of $78 followed by 150 bi-weekly payments of $98. Cost of borrowing is $0 and total obligation is $17,913. Throwback Pricing Incentive varies by model and trim level and may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce the financed amount. The Throwback Pricing Incentive for the 2014 Forte LX MT (F0541E) shown is $640 (a $20 reduction in 32 bi-weekly payments). Limited time offer. See retailer for complete details. Throwback Pricing is a trademark of Kia Canada Inc. 60/84 Amortization Financing example: 2014 Rio LX MT (R0541E)/2014 Optima LX AT (OP742E) with a purchase price of $15,913/$26,613 (including $1,485 freight/PDI and $399 administration fee) financed at 0.99% for 60 months amortized over an 84-month period equals 32 reduced bi-weekly payments of $71/$111 followed by 98 bi-weekly payments of $91/$151 with a principal balance of $4,660/$7,793 plus applicable taxes due after 60 months. Cost of borrowing is $514/$858.97 and total obligation is $16,427/$27,472. Throwback Pricing Incentive varies by model and trim level and may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce the financed amount. The Throwback Pricing Incentive for the 2014 Rio LX MT (R0541E)/2014 Optima LX AT (OP742E) shown is $640/$1,280 (a $20/$40 reduction in 32 bi-weekly payments). Limited time offer. Offer excludes HST and other applicable taxes. See retailer for complete details. 0% purchase financing is available on select new 2013/2014 Kia models O.A.C. Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. ^Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2014 Forte SX (F0748E)/ 2014 Optima SX AT (OP749E)/ 2014 Rio4 SX with Navigation (R0749E) is $26,195/$34,580/$23,602. * Highway/city fuel consumption is based on the 2014 Forte 1.8L MPI 4-cyl (M/T)/2014 Optima 2.4L GDI (A/T)/2014 Rio4 1.6L GDI 4-cyl (M/T). These updated estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. 2013/2014 Top Safety Pick – U.S. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) for model year 2013/2014. U.S. model tested. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.